

# Canada World View

ISSUE 27 • AUTUMN 2005

## Moving and Shaking

Canadian youth  
make their mark

- Ten years after Dayton:  
Lessons of Bosnia
- Canada's growing  
role in Afghanistan



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## 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 Foreign Affairs Canada.

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## Our cover

Simon Norris of Victoria, who spent six months in Latin America through the Internship of the Americas working for organizations involved in conservation, mountain bikes the Nevado Ausangate Circuit in the Andes near Cuzco, Peru.

*photo: Miguel Delgado*

## This page

Christopher Garrish of Montreal, on a job placement as a planner with the National Capital Authority in Canberra, Australia, shows that international youth programs aren't all play.

*photo: courtesy of Christopher Garrish*

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# WHAT I LEARNED IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Lord Paddy Ashdown is High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), a position created to oversee implementation of the civilian aspects of the Dayton Peace Agreement of December 14, 1995. Born in New Delhi and raised in Ireland, Ashdown served as a Royal Marines Officer, a diplomat and an elected member of Britain's House of Commons, leading the opposition Liberal Democrats from 1988 to 1999. He was appointed High Representative in 2002, with a mission to ensure that BiH is a peaceful, viable state on course to European integration. Ten years after the signing of the Dayton agreement that ended the war in the region, *Canada World View* invited Ashdown to write about the lessons of Bosnia for the international community in post-conflict societies.



photo: OHR

In the 1960s, the charismatic Brazilian educationist Paulo Freire advanced the premise that “you can’t teach until you are prepared to be taught.” Freire argued that pupils will always rebel against one-way communication—where the teacher dispenses knowledge and the class is required simply to soak it up. The fundamental disequilibrium of one-way communication leads to alienation and resentment.

Freire’s ideas, once radical, are now orthodox—one reason that children no longer sit in rows in classrooms, but sit instead in little groups where they help one another.

The Freire paradigm can be applied (alas this is too seldom the case) to international intervention in failed states. If we are not prepared to ask what the people of Afghanistan, East Timor, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iraq, Rwanda et al. are able to teach us, then our intervention will be met with a growing tide of resentment and alienation. This tide, in time, will overwhelm our best efforts to do good.

Yet there is a clear tendency for the international community to descend on failed states with answers.

This is fatal for nation-building. Yet, learning how to listen is easier said than done.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, we embarked on a steep learning curve as the result of an initiative that began by chance.

At the end of 2002, I called for a campaign to “bulldoze” pointless regulations, so as to clear the way for new investment and job creation.

Neither I nor any of my staff knew exactly which bits of the business environment needed to be fixed—so we couldn’t preach. This was, as it happens, a huge advantage. We had to listen and we had to learn.

Listening and learning were the hallmarks of the “Bulldozer Initiative.”

For the international community the process was liberating, because we were not prescribing solutions to BiH problems. Our active participation in the process became increasingly redundant.

This model applies to politics just as much as it applies to business.

Bosnia and Herzegovina’s recovery took on new momentum when the Euro-Atlantic integration process began to open up the real prospect of a prosperous and secure future. Moving into the Euro-integration path, BiH began to prepare itself for European Union and NATO membership, a process that has been experienced by other transition countries in Europe.

Notice the phrase: prepare itself. Progress depends entirely on the acceding country. They *know* what they have to do; they must strive to

Lord Paddy Ashdown: In Bosnia and Herzegovina the international community “learned a deeper lesson about our own struggle to find a basis for peace in the wider world.”

## The conflict

In the wars that characterized the fall of Yugoslavia in the 1990s, the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) was the most devastating. Between April 1992, when BiH declared independence, and December 1995, with the signing of the Dayton agreement, 250,000 people were killed and more than a million displaced from their homes in fighting among BiH’s three main ethnic groups: Serbs, Croats and Bosnians. The conflict was characterized by ethnic cleansing, the targeting of civilians, the use of anti-personnel mines and ineffective efforts by the international community to quell the violence. The Dayton agreement created a loose federation overseen by the Office of the High Representative of the International Community in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

find the optimal ways—*according to their specific circumstances*—to do it.

Countries join the EU and NATO on their own merits, not on sufferance, and when they do join they make their own distinctive contribution.

They learn from us, and we certainly learn from them.

Bosnia and Herzegovina's contribution to the larger bodies that it now seeks to join derives from its particular geopolitical experience, its paradoxical tradition of unity through diversity that the Nobel Prize-winning Bosnian novelist Ivo Andric so skillfully evokes, a unity that comes from centuries of shared experience—of tragedy as well as triumph.

This is a powerful and compelling tradition, one that was challenged in the terrible bloodletting of the 1990s but that was not defeated. It is a tradition that Europe and the world must tap into, faced as we are by a new and endemic global instability masquerading under the guise of cultural or religious incompatibility.

BiH shows that the notion of incompatibility is fraudulent. We have to live together; we *can* live together.

The international community came to Bosnia and Herzegovina (more slowly and more tentatively than it should have done) in order to maintain peace. (I might add that Canada's contribution to this effort has from the beginning been substantial and robust; more than 40,000 Canadian peacekeepers served in BiH during and after the war and the Canadian government has maintained a multi-million dollar aid program, now focusing on rule of law, health and education projects.) Yet in BiH we have learned a deeper lesson about our own struggle to find a basis for peace in the wider world. The Bosnians taught us what was wrong with their business environment and how to fix it. They can teach us a great deal about what is wrong with our world and how to fix that, too. 🍁

**Find out more about Canada's continuing involvement in the Balkans through the Web sites of Canadian embassies in the region:**

**Bosnia and Herzegovina**  
[www.international.gc.ca/canadaeuropa/country\\_bos-en.asp](http://www.international.gc.ca/canadaeuropa/country_bos-en.asp);

**Croatia** [www.international.gc.ca/canadaeuropa/country\\_cro-en.asp](http://www.international.gc.ca/canadaeuropa/country_cro-en.asp);

**Serbia and Montenegro**  
[www.international.gc.ca/canadaeuropa/country\\_ser-en.asp](http://www.international.gc.ca/canadaeuropa/country_ser-en.asp).

**Visit the Office of the High Representative at [www.ohr.int](http://www.ohr.int).**

## Canada in the region

**July 1992** – United Nations Protection Force opens the Sarajevo Airport for humanitarian flights under the command of Canadian Major-General Lewis Mackenzie.

**September 1993** – Canadian troops fight Croatian forces in breach of a ceasefire agreement in the Medak Pocket—Canada's largest military engagement since the Korean War.

**1996 to 1999** – Louise Arbour serves as chief prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, trying Slobodan Milosevic and others accused of war crimes.

**1997** – Canada sends RCMP and police officers to Bosnia and Herzegovina as part of a UN police mission. Six police officers continue to serve with what is now the EU police mission.

**Spring 1999** – Canadian Forces aircraft participate in the 78-day NATO bombing campaign to end human rights abuses in Kosovo.

**Summer 1999** – 7,000 Kosovar refugees come to Canada in a humanitarian evacuation. Although many eventually return to Kosovo, thousands of Canadians act as sponsors, volunteers and donors.

**2003** – Canadian Brigadier-General Stuart Beare assumes command of one of the three brigades that make up NATO's mission in BiH.

Canadian contribution: A Canadian Forces patrol monitors the devastated Tomislavgrad region of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in 2002. More than 40,000 Canadian peacekeepers served in BiH during and after the war and the Canadian government has maintained an extensive aid program there.

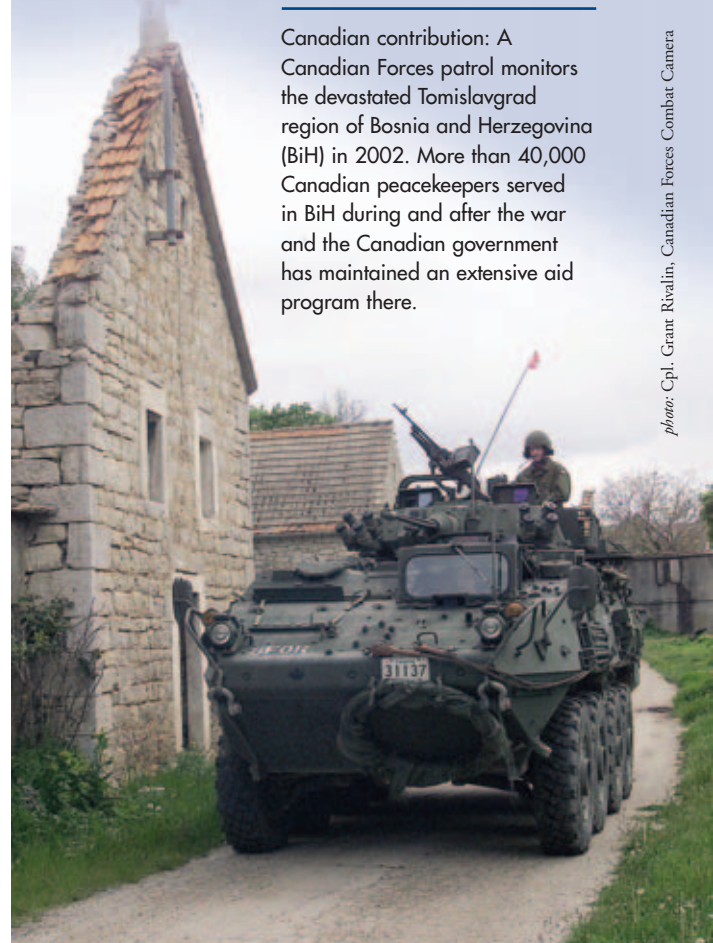


photo: Cpl. Grant Rivalin, Canadian Forces Combat Camera



# CANADA'S WORLD YOUTH

*"Younger men and women are asking that their voices be heard, that their issues be addressed and that their roles be recognized."*

— Canadian intern Kevina Power

The voices of Canada's young people are being heard in the world as never before.

For several days next June, Canadian youth will be in the forefront as some 1,000 young people from around the globe converge on Vancouver for an opportunity to speak out on today's most crucial international issues.

They will be attending the World Youth Forum, the first phase of an important UN-sponsored global conference, the World Urban Forum, a biennial initiative of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) that will be co-sponsored by the Government of Canada.

The ideas brought forward from the youth event will play an important role in the larger forum as it works toward meeting the UN's ambitious millennium development goals, which commit countries to reducing poverty and improving education and health in the world by 2015.

"We need young people in the same room at the same time as all the world leaders, the local leaders, all of those people who are making decisions on your behalf," says federal Labour and Housing Minister Joe Fontana, whose department has a special interest in UN-Habitat.

Among the many people working to organize the events is Kevina Power, who is helping to coordinate youth and civil society participation in the conference as an intern sponsored by the Environmental Youth Alliance in Vancouver and by UN-Habitat. Power, 28, a native of Corner Brook, Newfoundland, who recently earned a master's degree in conflict analysis and management at Royal Roads University in British Columbia, says that Canada is a natural choice to host the youth forum.

"Not only was UN-Habitat founded in Vancouver almost 30 years ago," she says, "Canada is a progressive country that has a history of including civil society on the world stage and that is dedicated to allowing young people to use their voice in forming—and informing—policy."

Indeed, in a shrinking world where communications are erasing borders with every passing day, Canadian



photo: courtesy of the One Stop Youth Information Center, Nairobi, Kenya

youth are taking an increasing interest, and playing a larger role, in global issues.

This is in keeping with the government's renewed effort to ensure that Canada realizes its potential economically and diplomatically on the world stage—a goal of the country's International Policy Statement, which was released this past spring and outlines a targeted approach to foreign relations based on Canada's strengths and values.

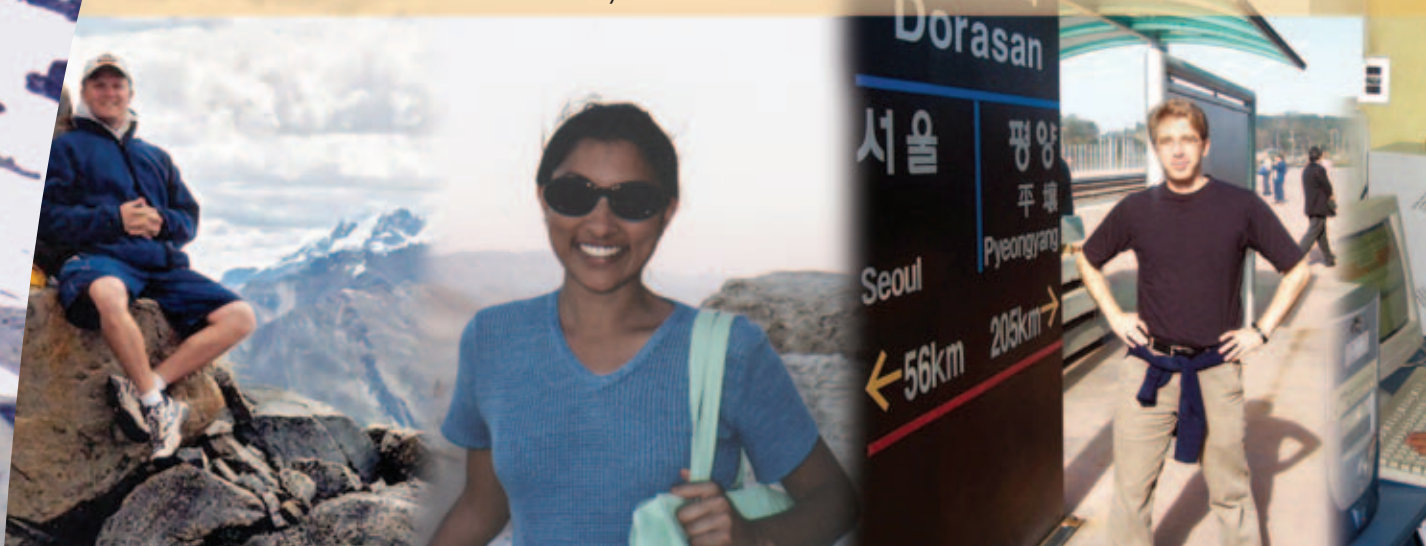
## International youth programs

Young Canadians are also forging international connections in ever-greater numbers—through work-abroad programs, international internships, trade promotion opportunities and educational exchanges—and sharing Canadian values and expertise along the way.

Michel Gigault, who oversees four international youth programs at FAC, says participation in the programs has increased by 27 percent in the last three years. Last year, 22,820 Canadian young people took part in working holiday, student work abroad, co-op education and young workers' exchange programs.

The programs provide young people with the opportunity to gain professional experience or work overseas for varying periods. While the Canadian government doesn't subsidize

Youth working together for change: (left to right) George Mgoph, David Driskell, Faith Mullumba, Canadian intern Kevina Power, Robert Njoroge and Hassan Abdikydor meet in preparation for the World Youth Forum to talk about life in the Kibera Slum in the heart of Nairobi, Kenya.



participants, it facilitates such exchanges through reciprocal agreements that allow an equal number of youth from other countries to come to Canada under the same terms. Australia topped the list as the country from which most youth came and to which most young Canadians travelled, followed by the United Kingdom, France and New Zealand. This year, with expanded reciprocal agreements, it's expected that 47,000 young people from around the world will participate in international youth programs involving Canada.

The exchanges have an important impact, Gigault says, because they allow young people from other countries to experience first-hand Canada's multicultural, multi-ethnic nature and Canadian values such as fairness, openness, justice and equality. Moreover, the kinds of people who take part in such ventures tend by nature to be energetic and entrepreneurial. "They also see the quality of Canadian goods and services, and they might turn out to be our future trading partners."

There is no shortage of foreign students looking

to come to Canada for a year abroad, according to David Smith, Director of the Student Work Abroad Program (SWAP) at Travel Cuts, the not-for-profit student travel agency that coordinates SWAP for Foreign Affairs Canada.

Such is Canada's appeal for younger travellers that it ranks fourth as a destination for youth, compared with ninth as a destination for all tourists, Smith says. This past summer, no fewer than 3,000 overseas youth were at work in the Toronto area alone, and many gathered at a club once a week to share their experiences of living and working far from home. "The only complaint is that the program is too short," Smith says.

For their part, young Canadians who go abroad learn about other cultures, develop language skills and gain a clearer perspective on the world and on Canada, fostering greater pride in their own country, Gigault says.

But that's just the beginning of the programs available to young Canadians with a yen to live, work or study abroad. Several federal government departments finance international internships for youth under the Government of Canada's Youth Employment Strategy.

The Canadian International Development Agency's International Youth Internship Program offers Canadian post-secondary graduates who are between 19 and 30 the chance to gain work experience in international development.

More than 3,000 Canadian graduates have benefited from FAC's Young Professionals International (YPI) since its inception in 1997, including 200 who have worked in countries with difficult human rights situations. Another 125 placements have contributed to the development of Canadian capacity in the areas of peacebuilding, defence and international security.

Among the government-funded initiatives is the Circumpolar Young Leaders Program, managed by the International Institute for Sustainable Development and designed to enhance awareness of sustainable development issues among youth who live in Canada's Far North, and the Young Professionals International Mine Action Program, which provides opportunities for youth to support the work of demining organizations around the world.



photo: Andrea Baeza Miranda

Tim Clark, seen here on Lake Nahuel Huapi in the Neuquen Province of the Argentinean Patagonia, says that a job placement in Chile "changed my life in ways I would never have imagined," leading to two jobs in Temuco, Chile.





## Career success

These programs help young people go places. For example, about 80 percent of past participants in YPI are now employed, the vast majority of them in jobs with an international focus, either in Canada or abroad.

Tim Clark, 28, who has a master's degree from York University in Toronto, snagged a YPI placement in 2004 at the National Statistical Institute in Santiago, Chile. The placement is administered by the Hispanic Development Council, a not-for-profit planning agency that works with the City of Toronto on social and economic policy.

Clark helped develop a registry of Chileans living abroad and contributed to a report to inform government policies on strengthening the political, economic and cultural links between members of the Chilean diaspora and their homeland. At the end of his internship, he was hired as the coordinator of the Centre for Sustainable Development in Temuco, Chile, and as a professor of anthropology at the Catholic University of Temuco.

"I would never have dreamed that my internship would result in the chance to run a research centre and teach at a university," Clark says. "It changed my life in ways I would never have imagined."

## Cross-Atlantic ties

Always popular, Europe remains a key destination for young Canadians wishing to study, work or volunteer abroad. Framework agreements and other types of bilateral arrangements related to youth mobility have been established with 12 European countries, and discussions to make such travel possible are under way with another 10.

"We're promoting the image of Canada as a young, modern, dynamic and diversified country," says Carole Robert, Youth Mobility and Academic Relations Coordinator within the Europe Sector at FAC. "Young Canadians develop skills that will help them integrate into

the global, knowledge-based society, while youth from Europe discover Canada's expertise and bilingual heritage."

The Canada-European Community Agreement on Cooperation in Higher Education and Vocational Training encourages joint academic projects among higher education institutions on both sides of the Atlantic. More than 125 post-secondary institutions in Canada and Europe have taken part in the program, which encourages the use of new learning technologies to maximize student participation.

In addition to the many government programs, a wide range of opportunities available through non-governmental and other organizations enable young people to satisfy their wanderlust while developing their skills and helping others.

More than 6,000 young Canadians, for example, have participated in the last 50 years in eight- to 12-week internships arranged through the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE). With 80 member countries, this non-governmental organization aims to promote international understanding and goodwill while furthering participants' technical and professional development.

Canadian employers who have hired foreign students through IAESTE, as well as Canadian students who have worked abroad through the program, are enthusiastic. Vittoria Bellissimo, a student at Queen's University in Ontario, describes her work on global positioning systems maps at the University of Maribor in Slovenia as a "truly rewarding" experience.

"Participation in an IAESTE exchange is a great way to practise your trade and see new parts of the world simultaneously," she adds.

## Focus on Canada

The Canadian government also encourages the study of Canada abroad. Around the world, there are 26 national and international Canadian studies associations, with

At home in the world: More than 3,000 Canadian graduates have benefited from the Young Professionals International program since its inception, heading out to all corners of the world. For more photos and information see *Canada World View* on-line at [www.international.gc.ca/canada-magazine](http://www.international.gc.ca/canada-magazine).

hundreds of Canadian studies centres actively involved in researching and teaching about Canada.

“Diplomacy isn’t always state to state; it can also be between publics, between people,” says Andrea Clark, who works in International Academic Relations at FAC. “Creating the opportunity for personalized relations and experiences between people is a type of soft diplomacy that has become increasingly important in a global world.”

Canadian studies provides an opportunity for long-term relationship building with reputable foreign academics. The focus may vary between institutions and between regions, Clark says. Canadian culture and literature, for example, are particularly popular in Europe, while in Latin America and Asia there is more interest in the Canadian model of education, health and political systems.

### International exposure

Whether it’s projecting Canada to the world or projecting the world to Canada, young people are on board. A survey conducted for FAC in February 2004 suggests that more than 90 percent of young people aged 18 to 35 believe that it is important to be exposed to and have opportunities to participate in other cultures. Some 80 percent believe that it’s important for Canada’s young people to participate in international youth programs.



photo: CP (Shuji Kajiyama)

Canadian strengths and values: (left to right) Tracy Cameron, Mara Jones, Elizabeth Urbach and Melanie Kok pose with their gold medals after an award ceremony for the lightweight women’s quadruple sculls at the 2005 World Rowing Championships in Gifu, Japan, in September.

A remarkable 92 percent of those surveyed believe there is a lot to learn from working in another country, and 77 percent said they like the idea of working abroad to finance an extended visit to a foreign country. About three quarters believe they can foster contacts that can help them become future entrepreneurs, while 65 percent want to open doors to diplomatic careers.



### Get connected

There are lots of on-line resources for young Canadians looking to work, study or travel abroad.

#### Government of Canada international internship programs

Young Professionals International  
[www.international.gc.ca/ypi-jpi](http://www.international.gc.ca/ypi-jpi)

International Youth Internship Program  
[www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/internships](http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/internships)

International Environmental Youth Corps  
[www.eco.ca](http://www.eco.ca)

NetCorps Canada International  
[www.netcorps-cyberjeunes.org](http://www.netcorps-cyberjeunes.org)

#### Government of Canada international youth programs

International Youth Programs  
[www.international.gc.ca/123go](http://www.international.gc.ca/123go)

Destination Europe: Youth on the Move  
[www.youthonthemove.gc.ca](http://www.youthonthemove.gc.ca)

#### Other international programs

IAESTE Canada  
[www.queensu.ca/iaeste](http://www.queensu.ca/iaeste)

AIESEC Canada  
[www.aiesec.ca](http://www.aiesec.ca)

CUSO  
[www.cuso.org](http://www.cuso.org)

Global Citizens for Change  
[www.citizens4change.org](http://www.citizens4change.org)

VSO Canada  
[www.vsocanada.org](http://www.vsocanada.org)

Youth Challenge International  
[www.yci.org](http://www.yci.org)



Regardless of the country they would like to visit, the survey found, the reasons for wanting to travel are often the same. “Many young people say that they have always wanted to see a particular country, find the culture interesting, or want to learn the language.” Many choose countries where they have an existing familiarity with the culture and language or have family.

## Effecting change

Beyond seeking experience abroad for their own personal growth, many young Canadians are also intent on shaping Canada’s role in the world—and the world itself.

While considering the government’s new International Policy Statement in May, members of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade heard from an entire panel of participants speaking from a youth perspective.

One of those who addressed the committee was David Eaves, a member of Canada25, a non-partisan organization dedicated to engaging Canadians aged 20 to 35 in public policy debate. Each year, Canada25 prepares a report on an issue chosen by its members, basing its recommendations on extensive research and consultation. This year’s report is on foreign policy and is entitled *From Middle to Model Power: Recharging Canada’s Role in the World*.

“The goal of our report is not to provide the answer to Canada’s foreign policy debate,” explains Eaves, the lead author of the report. “Our intention is to provide a compelling and challenging vision of Canada’s foreign policy that will push the thinking.”

Among other things, the organization recommends that international programs for young Canadians be vastly expanded in the belief that international experience is an essential element of any 21st-century education.

“Canada has an enormous advantage because of our immigrant population,” Eaves told the parliamentary committee in May. “Many people already speak a second language, are familiar with a second culture and are comfortable with it. It’s one of the beauties of Canada. We as a community recognize that when people get together with different perspectives, there is a need to reconcile—there’s a need to learn about the other.”

YPI participant Kevina Power agrees. She will spend the next six months in Nairobi, Kenya, working on models of engagement for the June 2006 World Urban Forum and related events, including the youth forum. For Power, the UN’s millennium goals simply can’t be met without the full participation and support of the world’s young people.

“Vancouver will be an amazing opportunity to continue to motivate the next generation of planners and world leaders in sustainable development,” she says. “It’s going to put young people on an equal playing field with all the other interested parties.” 🍁



photo: Paul Schemm, *Cairo Times*

International immersion: Annik Lussier covers a demonstration in Cairo as a staff writer in 2002 for the *Cairo Times*.

## Making a difference

Four years ago, Annik Lussier was a young reporter working at the *Cairo Times* through an international job placement sponsored by the National Council on Canada-Arab Relations in Ottawa.

The experience made a big impression. Today Lussier, 29, is the projects coordinator for the council and is seeking a career as a foreign service officer in order to help further Canada’s role abroad. “In Cairo,” says Lussier, “I saw the kind of work that could be done.”

Lussier was among several spirited young Canadians profiled three years ago in a *Canada World View* article (see *Issue 17, Autumn 2002*) on youth programs supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (now Foreign Affairs Canada) who have gone on to bigger challenges after gaining international work experience. Combined with Lussier’s training, the six-month internship made possible a posting of nearly two years in Cairo, followed by a seven-month editing stint at the *China Daily* in Beijing.

Now, as a coordinator at the council offering practical advice to interns, “I can really give my personal views on how I lived the program,” says Lussier, a self-described social activist who believes that Canada has a special role abroad. “We have such expertise in civil society, in governance. We’re helping with capacity building.”

In Morden, Manitoba, Darryl Toews, 35, and his wife Meredith Daun, 26, both former interns of the Youth Mine Action Ambassador Program, have deepened their commitment to drawing attention to abandoned landmines throughout the world.

Following their experience in the program (Toews from 1999 to 2000 and Daun from 2000 to 2001), the couple created the Manitoba Campaign to Ban Landmines. “Being youth ambassadors gave us a first-hand look at the landmine issue and [a chance] to be part of the movement to eliminate them,” Toews says in an interview from Rwanda, where he is observing efforts to help landmine victims. The youth program, he adds, “provided us with a lot of quality work experience and skills development that have benefited us in our current work.”

For his part, Philip Strong, 32, initially thought he was headed for Uganda in 2001 as a youth intern, but wound up in Washington, D.C., instead—and has remained there since his placement with the American Council of the Blind.

Strong, a Newfoundland native who has had a personal involvement in advocacy issues since he lost his sight in 1987, has duties today as an advocacy specialist for the council that include policy work on access and safety for the visually impaired in the area of transportation.

The internship program, Strong recounts, “opened up a whole different realm of opportunities, both employment-wise and in terms of life experience.”

Many former interns say they found that the placements made real their aspirations for effecting positive change in the world.

“It demonstrated to us that we can make a difference,” says Toews, “and we wanted to stay involved.”

# HOMeward BOUND

**Two young Canadian artists of Arabic origin journey back to the Middle East and North Africa, promoting their adopted country and rediscovering their roots.**

In December 2004, Julie Nesrallah, a Canadian mezzo-soprano with Lebanese origins, performed for the first time in the Middle East. A few months later, Lynda Thalie, a Canadian pop singer born in Algeria, returned to her home country for the first time in 11 years to perform three groundbreaking concerts, including one on Canada Day. On and off stage, the two singers wowed audiences, delivering powerful messages about Canada's cultural mosaic and the ability of young women everywhere to pursue their dreams.

Nesrallah, a 37-year-old Ottawa native, last visited Lebanon with her mother and grandmother at the age of five. Her desire to return to the region began in Montreal with a concert at McGill University's Evening for Peace in March 2000 with Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan in

the audience. For the next four years, while performing with North America's leading opera companies, orchestras and ensembles, Nesrallah worked to organize a tour of the Middle East.

It seemed that logistics and security concerns would keep her dream at bay until the Canadian embassy in Amman invited Nesrallah to perform last December in a benefit concert dedicated to disadvantaged young women who want to study music in Canada. Fresh from her role of Suzuki in Vancouver Opera's production of *Madame Butterfly*, Nesrallah flew 18 hours to Jordan for a four-day experience that was unforgettable—both for her and the young people she met.

"There were 650 people in the room for the gala, and you could have heard a pin drop," she says. "It was one of the most incredible performing experiences of my life. There was so much generous attention and applause." After the concert, it took 45 minutes for her to reach the Jordanian royal family, which was in attendance, Nesrallah says. "So many people wanted to connect with me."

The concert, hosted by the Canadian embassy, raised \$80,000 through ticket sales, a raffle and a live auction. The money will go to the Princess Haya Endowment Fund, which will provide young women with

music scholarships to Canadian universities as well as training in English, public speaking and leadership.

In addition to performing in the concert, Nesrallah visited two music conservatories to speak with young men and women about her career. "I could see kids looking at me. Their eyes said, 'you're a musician. You're actually doing it!'"

Through the gala performance and her encounters with students, Nesrallah became a role model for aspiring young musicians—especially women—and gained something in return. "Everyone looked like me. I felt I was with 'my people.'"

Lynda Thalie, who left Algeria at 16 in 1994 to settle in Montreal, Quebec, was equally moved by her connection with her homeland. "There is a lot of nostalgia for Algeria in my songs," says Thalie, whose music has been described as joyous, sensual and mysterious. "Algeria is part of my heart."

In her triumphant return, Thalie brought this unique fusion to enthusiastic audiences, mixing what she calls the "honey" of Algeria with the "maple syrup" of Canada. The tour, coinciding with both Canada Day and the anniversary of Algeria's independence on July 5, celebrated 40 years of relations between the two countries. Says Robert Peck, Canada's Ambassador to Algeria, it also marked a new era for Algerians, who are emerging from a period often referred to as "*les années noires*," during which terrorism shook the very foundations of the country.

photo: Robert Etchevery



Canadian opera singer Julie Nesrallah as role model: "I could see kids looking at me. Their eyes said, 'you're a musician. You're actually doing it!'"





photo: Michel Pinaut

Lynda Thalie's band (left to right) Michel Bruno, Thalie, Denis Courchesne and Alexandre Ouellet in Algeria: "I am very proud to go into the world and represent Canada."

"There were stories of people afraid of playing piano in their apartments because it might have been considered 'western,' and thus an act of defiance," Mr. Peck explains. "Algeria is coming out of a shell, and Lynda's return marked a renaissance, bringing a message of hope and optimism, especially to young people."

At the concert in Algiers, girls stood on their chairs and threw roses to the performer and women in traditional hijabs danced on the stage. "In my 22 years in diplomacy, I've never seen an event that had such an emotional impact," Peck says.

The concerts, broadcast throughout La Francophonie from Paris to Montreal, were an emotional homecoming for Thalie. At one, she was presented with a framed copy of her birth certificate. In another memorable moment, she played a traditional Acadian song. "Everyone was clapping their hands along with the tapping of the spoons," Thalie remembers. "I actually think they liked that song the best."

Like Julie Nesrallah, Lynda Thalie accepts her role as a cultural ambassador for Canada and as a model for young women.



photo: Patrick Cameron

"When I left Algeria, I was well received by Canada, which is known for its generosity," she says. "I had a chance to live here and develop my career, so I am very proud to go into the world and represent Canada." 🍁

**For more information, visit**  
[www.julienesrallah.com](http://www.julienesrallah.com) and  
[www.lyndathalie.com](http://www.lyndathalie.com).



photos: courtesy of Nightingale Productions

## Youth gets out of town

Sebastian Cluer has travelled widely to see—and to show other young people—the world.

Nightingale Productions hired Cluer as the director and cinematographer for a new teen travel series called "Get Out of Town" in an internship sponsored by Foreign Affairs Canada and the Canadian Film and Television Production Association (CFTPA). For four months last year the Ryerson University graduate from Toronto shot and directed the show in 10 cities around the world, including London, Paris, Lucerne, Munich, Mexico City, New York, Washington and Sydney. The production is airing on TVOntario and SCN Saskatchewan as well as specialty networks such as WAM! in the U.S.

At the helm of his own series at the age of 30, Cluer says he had "more creative control than I ever had before." The crew of six people was also joined by Oscar-nominated producer Erin Faith Young. They hired a teen co-host and found another local teen in each city visited who enlightened young viewers on the culture, history and sites of his or her hometown.

Sebastian Cluer went to Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia, to shoot a segment of the youth series.

From Costa Rica's steaming rainforest to a frigid Swiss mountain, Cluer adjusted to extreme environments and a stressful schedule, working up to 16 hours a day, with only about three days to spend in each city.

"It teaches you how to be efficient, self-sufficient and adaptive to circumstances," he says, adding that the internship "has been a great experience to add to my career."

Cluer has been asked to be involved with a second season of "Get Out of Town," now in pre-production, and is continuing to work on a number of television and documentary projects, including as a cinematographer with Breakthrough Film & Television on the series "Kenny vs. Spenny" premiering on Showcase and GSN this fall.

Cluer's advice for students and new graduates? If you can't find a job, volunteer in your field of interest. "It's a win-win situation," he says, "to be behind closed doors and learn and work with professionals."

**For more information on CFTPA job placements visit** [www.cftpa.ca](http://www.cftpa.ca).

# ASSIGNMENT TO BEIJING

**Jennie Chen heads out on a rotation in Canada's foreign service with some impressive credentials.**

For a junior diplomat on her first foreign posting, Jennie Chen has a remarkably robust portfolio.

Chen, 29, takes up a position this fall as Third Secretary in the Canadian Embassy in Beijing speaking fluent Mandarin, with two degrees in Asian studies as well as family ties to the country and lengthy experience working in the region.

She's among the gifted Canadians who enter the country's foreign service, high achievers who sign on to promote Canadian interests abroad while carrying a strong sense of how much Canada can contribute internationally.

"There's pride for me in being part of something that's doing so much good," says Chen. "It's not just Foreign

Affairs Canada but our NGOs, our participation in the World Health Organization, the Red Cross and in Médecins Sans Frontières. It's a testament to our country."

Undergraduate studies in international relations and Asian history at the University of British Columbia inspired the Vancouver-born Chen to work abroad. Her father was a Chinese diplomat from Hunan province who was posted to Ottawa in the 1960s, where he met her mother, an immigrant from Shanghai. A shift in China's rule ended her father's term, at which point the family stayed in Canada and moved to the West Coast.

Chen's first foreign job came through a one-year internship in 1999 as a trade development officer at the Canadian Embassy in Bangkok. "Seeing how a society has adapted to so much change over such a short period of time, finding it such a colourful, amazing place to be, I learned to appreciate the beauty and complexities of a culture without my pre-existing biases getting in the way."

Following her stint in Bangkok, Chen was engaged by the Canadian consulate in Shanghai to work on the logistics for a Team Canada trade mission to the region. She returned to Canada to complete a master's degree in Asian Studies at McGill University in Montreal.

She applied to become a foreign service officer in 2001 and successfully navigated the tough, year-long recruitment process. Competition for the service is legendary: each year more than 5,000 Canadians apply and complete a battery of tests, while just 300 to 400 are interviewed and perhaps 75 to 100—less than two percent of original applicants—are

hired in the trade, political and immigration streams.

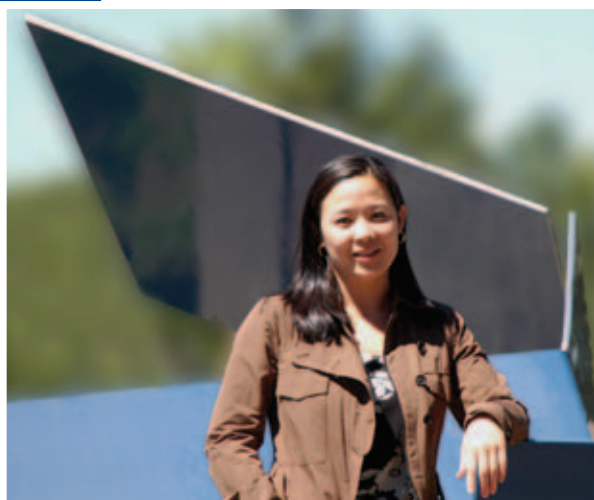
Chen's apprenticeship has included French training, a year as a departmental spokesperson in Ottawa and a four-month assignment at Canada's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York.

There have been challenges. Despite growing up in a home where Mandarin was spoken, Chen required training to bring her language skills up to a working level. She has also found that her Asian appearance can create "identity confusion" abroad. "Visually, I'm 100 percent Chinese and that negates the fact that I'm Canadian for many people."

She views her posting as a chance to reach out to China in mutually constructive ways, especially in social areas. "In recent years we have witnessed the borderless-ness of the environmental and health issues that touch our two countries," she observes. "Canada has much to offer in these fields, and if I can somehow be a part of building active relationships toward the resolution of these issues, that's something I would like to do."

Chen recognizes both in herself and her peers joining Canada's foreign service that youthfulness has a connection to such idealism. "There are so many young people in this country who want to do good," she remarks. "The challenge is to channel and focus that energy. I consider myself fortunate to have this chance." 🍁

**Find out about applying for a position in Canada's foreign service at [www.international.gc.ca/departement/service](http://www.international.gc.ca/departement/service).**



Diplomat Jennie Chen: "I consider myself fortunate to have this chance."



# INTERNATIONAL NOTEBOOK

Mélanie Bécard is a reporter and photographer with the *Fort Frances Times*, a community newspaper in northwestern Ontario. Bécard, 31, a native of Pain Court, Ontario, a francophone community east of Windsor, has tried her hand at several careers and travelled widely, including studying French literature in Grenoble, France, and teaching English to children in Shenzhen, China. While studying journalism at Humber College in Toronto in 2003, Bécard participated in International Notebook, a program offered by Foreign Affairs Canada to give journalism students who aspire to become international affairs reporters an opportunity to meet with foreign policy makers and learn about the department's mandate.



When I moved to Fort Frances two years ago, I expected a little culture shock. I had finished journalism school only a month before receiving the offer of employment at the *Fort Frances Times*, and knew I would have to be willing to relocate to build up some experience in newspapers.

What I never expected when I arrived in this relatively isolated community of 8,000 was to meet people who would transport me to one of my favourite places on earth: China.

A few months after starting my new job, I met Lawrence Eustace, a local lawyer involved in a Canadian aid project in eastern China. The initial aim of the Pro Bono China Outreach Project when it was set up in 2000 had been to provide a model drinking-water system for two isolated villages in Shandong province. But when organizers saw villagers' living conditions, they quickly expanded their list of goals to include rebuilding a medical clinic that had burned down and renovating the local school.

Eustace recommended that I speak to Mark Bujold, then a 21-year-old Fort Frances native studying to be a mechanical engineering technician

at Confederation College in Thunder Bay. Bujold had just returned from six weeks in Shandong working alongside Norm Becker, an engineer in Windsor who had started the China project.

Having taught English for six months in 1998 in China—where I fell in love with the rapidly changing country, its ancient history blended with an ambition to become an ultra-modern economic powerhouse—I was particularly attracted to the story.

Interviewing the young student had me reflecting on my own experiences and observations of the Middle Kingdom. Boundless generosity in the midst of crippling poverty. Smiles of welcome for complete strangers. Diligence, determination and hard work. These were the Chinese that he described, the same as those I remembered from my own time there.

While China had shown that teaching was perhaps not the best career path for me, for Bujold it was a jumping-off point. He came back here determined to do well in his studies and use his skills to help others. "In China I saw what I can be and what I can do," says Bujold, who has now completed his engineering course. "I'd rather

work for people and actually make a difference."

The Pro Bono China Outreach Project is remarkable not only in its scope, but in its ability to draw Canadians from various backgrounds, communities and ages together to put their particular skills to work in international cooperation.

But, as I found during my own time abroad, the rewards are richest for youths. They take away a better understanding of their career of choice—and the world they live in.

"It's such a lovely thing to watch the maturing a person undergoes when they have an experience like this," Norm Becker says of the students who have participated. "They come back better citizens, and better people." 🍁

**Mélanie Bécard won a 2004 CIDA Award for Excellence in Writing on International Cooperation for her reporting on the Pro Bono China Outreach Project, which you can read by searching the archives at [www.fftimes.com](http://www.fftimes.com). Find out about FAC's International Notebook at [www.internationalnotebook.gc.ca](http://www.internationalnotebook.gc.ca).**

Rich rewards: Mélanie Bécard atop the Great Wall of China at Simatai, northeast of Beijing in the Jundu Mountains, in July 2000.

# SCHOOL'S IN, CANADIAN STYLE

**A new private university in Cairo will offer the best of Canadian higher education in an Egyptian setting—as well as long-term benefits for both countries.**

A new university opens its doors in Cairo this fall with a distinctly Canadian look and feel. Al-Ahram Canadian University, an educational hybrid set up to deliver the best of Canadian higher education in an Egyptian academic setting, takes in its first contingent of 1,000 students in September.

Students at the new university, which has a 200-acre, \$180-million campus on the outskirts of Cairo, will take English-language courses using curricula, teaching methods and administrative practices set out by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC). They

will graduate with degrees equal to those offered by Canadian universities.

“We want people who are well prepared, well trained and well educated according to the Canadian system,” says Dr. Farouk Ismail, president of the private institution. “We are committed to preparing young

individuals from Egypt and abroad to be leaders and intellectuals, and to instilling in them the critical thinking that underpins responsible citizenship and social and ethical responsiveness in the global knowledge society.”

photo: courtesy of Al-Ahram



The Al-Ahram Canadian University campus: Delivering the best of Canadian higher education in an Egyptian academic setting.

The university is a business venture of the state-controlled Al-Ahram Establishment, a diverse media empire that includes the largest-circulation Arabic daily newspaper in the Middle East, *Al-Ahram*. The media organization hired the AUCC as technical advisors to create a new institution from scratch—one that breaks from Egyptian tradition.

For example, embracing Canadian-style education means a shift in focus to “student-led research” as opposed to rote learning, as well as the use of Canadian reading materials and the application of successful Canadian innovations such as cooperative education and internships that embed practical experience into the curriculum. A common first year gives students a broad foundation instead of immediate specialization in their field of study.

“I need the Canadian method of education to be here in Egypt,” says Ismail, a former president of Cairo University who was appointed by President Hosni Mubarak as chairman of the education and research committee of the Egyptian senate.

The new university, developed through face-to-face meetings and other consultations between Canadian and Egyptian professors and education officials, promises an experience that meets academic standards in both countries.

“We are not taking a Canadian curriculum and imposing it in Egypt,” says Walid Madhoun, the AUCC’s project leader. “We are showing the Egyptians a curriculum development model that will lead to a curriculum that is commensurate in quality to that in Canada.”

While there are a number of bilateral educational activities between Canadian universities and those of other countries, this is the first to happen on such a scale, making it groundbreaking for Canada’s academic and political relations abroad. Several notable Canadians will serve on the institution’s board of trustees, including Lloyd Axworthy, president of the University of Winnipeg; Lise Bissonnette, the chair and chief executive officer of the National Library of Quebec; Philip MacKinnon,

photo: courtesy of Al-Ahram



University president Dr. Farouk Ismail says the private institution will produce graduates who are “well prepared, well trained and well educated according to the Canadian system.”





Canada's Ambassador to Egypt; and Michel de Salaberry, the previous ambassador to Egypt. As well, Egyptian scholars now living in Canada will make up about 40 percent of the initial group of 50 to 60 faculty members.

"As countries look to expand their capacity to offer quality higher education to meet the growing demands of their citizens, many will seek to cooperate with Canadian universities," predicts Karen McBride, vice-president of international relations for the AUCC.

Jean-Philippe Tachdjian, Deputy Director of International Trade Canada's Education Marketing Group, who was based in Cairo when the project first started, sees the university as offering long-term benefits for Canada.

"In the future, thousands of Egyptians and people from throughout the Middle East will proudly say they are graduates of Al-Ahram Canadian University," Tachdjian says. "As these graduates come into positions of influence, there will be very positive consequences for Canada in terms of public diplomacy, trade

and political relations with people in the region."

The university will grow in phases. In the first, four Canadian universities that are members of the AUCC have been matched with the institution's initial four faculties: mass communication and journalism (Carleton University); computer science (École Polytechnique de Montréal); business administration (McMaster University); and pharmacy (Memorial University). Additional Canadian institutions will join as Al-Ahram expands; by 2010, the university is expected to have its full complement of 12 liberal arts and professional faculties and a population of 10,000 students.

Carleton University team leader Allan Thompson, an assistant professor of journalism, says he and his colleagues are offering wide-ranging advice, from how to set up co-op job placements to which Canadian textbooks should be used in the classroom. "It's not about creating a mirror image of Carleton in Egypt," he says. "It is an Egyptian-based journalism faculty that meets Canadian standards."

For Canada's scholars, he adds, the opportunity to assist in the birth of a new university—a rarity at home—is remarkable.

That's also true for Ismail. After more than 40 years in higher education, the former engineering dean is eager to adopt Canadian teaching practices that better serve Egypt's fast-growing post-secondary population.

"We have to prepare graduates to meet the requirements of this increasingly global world," he observes. "We have to open all doors and learn from others." 🍁

## A world of educational opportunities

What better way to discover the world, develop new skills and interact with different cultures than to study in a foreign country?

Young people are increasingly interested in pursuing such opportunities, and the demand for international scholarships—both from Canadians interested in going abroad and from international students wanting to study in Canada—is on the rise.

Governments around the world have recognized the value of such international exchanges and have created programs to help alleviate some of the cost of studying overseas. Canadians wishing to study abroad and foreign students interested in coming to Canada can benefit from Canada's active participation in multilateral and bilateral education agreements with a number of foreign countries including Chile, China, Columbia, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Russia, South Korea and Spain.

Additional opportunities are also available to Canadians through Canada's membership in the Commonwealth, La Francophonie and the Organization of American States. Scholarships offered through these organizations and their member countries apply to graduate and post-graduate studies and research, range from six months to four years in length and generally cover admission fees, travel costs, monthly allocations and health insurance.

Those interested in studying overseas who would like more information on country-specific criteria and how to apply for assistance from the Government of Canada or foreign governments should visit the main Web site on Canadian and international scholarship programs at [www.scholarships.gc.ca](http://www.scholarships.gc.ca).

International students from La Francophonie member countries are also eligible to apply for scholarships available through Le programme canadien de bourses de la Francophonie. More information can be found at [www.pcbf.qc.ca](http://www.pcbf.qc.ca) and a complete list of member countries at [www.francophonie.org](http://www.francophonie.org).

## MAJOR LEAGUE SUCCESS

**Through Junior Team Canada trade missions, young entrepreneurs are opening doors for themselves and for Canadian business.**

Candice Bazinet started knocking on the doors of companies in Ottawa's biotechnology sector last spring. Her pitch: let me represent you and sell your products in China and Hong Kong.

Prospects such as Toby Shannan, vice-president of sales and marketing at DNA Genotek, were skeptical when they first heard from Bazinet, a 24-year-old student at the University of Ottawa's school of management. However, Shannan, whose firm sells devices for collecting DNA to scientists and researchers developing molecular roadmaps for disease, was quickly convinced by Bazinet's grasp of her business. "After a couple of minutes of listening to Candice, I thought she could do anything."

Bazinet, from Blind River, Ontario, is one of thousands of Canadian youths aged 16 to 25 who have plunged into the global marketplace through Junior Team Canada (JTC). A 14-year partnership between the public and private sectors and sponsored by International Trade Canada, the program equips youths with the skills, knowledge and experience to compete in the global economy.

The program has a number of facets. For example, young exporters are sent on Canadian trade missions with the Prime Minister or Minister

of International Trade. There are also biannual JTC missions where teams of youths such as Bazinet travel to foreign markets to meet with industry and government leaders and explore business opportunities on behalf of sponsoring companies, preparing market briefs upon their return.

"We gave Candice a list of 24 contacts in Hong Kong, and she came up with an exhaustive and amazing report," recalls Shannan, adding that DNA Genotek can directly attribute at least one contract to Bazinet's role.

Amy Giroux, who directs Global Vision, the organization that manages the JTC program, says that the process of becoming a participant in one of the JTC missions is highly competitive. For the 2005 mission to Brazil from August 11 to 27, the program accepted just 35 out of some 500 applicants. To apply, young people "brand" themselves in a 50-word statement and identify their skills, approach and target sector. Once accepted, participants must match the \$4,000 in funding that the program provides for the mission by asking companies in their selected sectors to hire them as junior consultants.

"You really put your neck on the line with those cold calls, but it's an important lesson to show that you can provide 'value added,'" says

Nils Engelstad, from London, Ontario. In 1998 Engelstad, then just 18, convinced Hetek Solutions, an engineering consulting firm in London, to defray his travel costs for the JTC mission to Malaysia and Thailand.

"We were looking at doing work in Malaysia, so it was a good opportunity to get involved," says Hetek president Wayne Hennigar. "Nils was a very progressive young man, and we were impressed with his credentials." In fact, the following summer, the firm hired Engelstad as a researcher.

Candice Bazinet also found employment with one of the three companies that sponsored her recent mission, a biotech start-up firm that has hired her to help prepare for its launch into the marketplace. "After all the cold calls through JTC, it's easy to sell myself now in a job interview," she says.

Engelstad, who is now completing a law degree at the University of Windsor and continues to volunteer in JTC training centres and missions, says the program makes participants realize that "everything is global... you automatically look at opportunities that go beyond our borders." 🍁

**Learn more about how to get involved in Junior Team Canada by visiting Global Vision at [www.gvconnects.com](http://www.gvconnects.com).**



Nils Engelstad in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 2005 while volunteering on a Junior Team Canada mission: Going beyond borders.

photo: courtesy of Nils Engelstad



# YOUTHS TAKE IT GLOBAL

**Two young Canadians are bringing youths together in an on-line network that provides inspiration, access to information and opportunities to improve local and global communities.**

By the time he was 18, Michael Furdyk had made millions creating and selling Internet companies and was a technology consultant to Fortune 500 firms. At 21, Jennifer Correiro was debating corporate responsibility at a World Economic Forum event in Geneva after being selected by the organization as a Global Leader of Tomorrow.

Fuelled by these experiences and their passion for social engagement and information technology, in 2000 the two young Canadians founded TakingITGlobal (TIG), an international non-profit organization that has grown to a worldwide staff of 40 young people. The organization's flagship program is TIG.org, an on-line community where youths meet to exchange ideas and develop plans for community development projects.

"There are an infinite number of ways to effect change and have an impact," says Correiro, now 25 and TIG's Executive Director, who describes the organization as "a catalyst" for "youth-led action in the international context." Furdyk, 23, the company's Director of Technology, calls TIG "a connector" that allows young people to exchange information about successful youth initiatives.

All of that on-line activity is sparking creative projects and creating connections worldwide. In Cyprus, members use TIG to initiate dialogue between Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

Students in South Africa and Canada participate in an innovative form of comparative education by analyzing differences in perceptions of HIV/AIDS in images posted on the site's Global Gallery. Through Foreign Affairs Canada's Young Professionals International program, TIG has arranged internships for young Canadians with organizations like Peace Child International and the Digital Youth Consortium.

This Canadian initiative has caught the attention of major players in the corporate world. Soon after the idea for TIG was announced, Microsoft invited the two young co-founders to Seattle for a six-month stint advising the company on various aspects of the next generation of workers (referred to as the "Net Generation"). Wrote *Time* magazine in 2001: "At the heart of the new generation's approach is a collaborative style that is getting smart young minds together. This is a central tenet of TakingITGlobal." TIG's partners and sponsors include five UN agencies, RBC Financial Group and the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

TIG has grown into a vast network, with more than 75,000 members in 200 countries. Between 30,000 and 40,000 people visit the site each day, generating more than 1.4 million "hits." The site offers a database of 1,000 projects around the world along with downloadable "guides to action" that help young people to

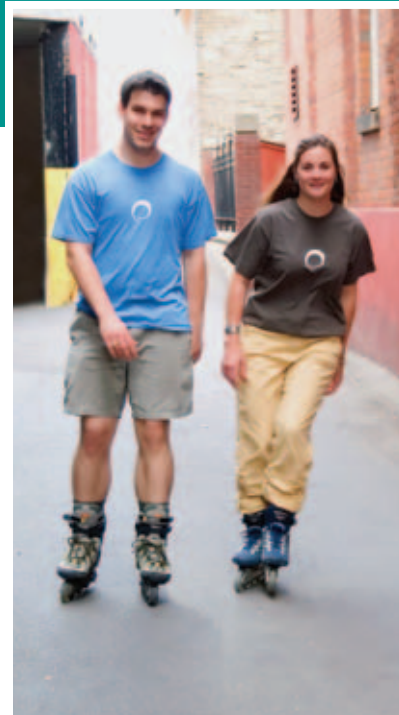


photo: Vito Anati

TakingITGlobal's Michael Furdyk and Jennifer Correiro: Helping youth to exchange ideas and develop plans for community development projects.

plan, implement and evaluate community development projects.

There is a danger, Furdyk admits, of overwhelming people with information. Soon the site will deliver customized information packages and offer a personal look and feel to members. TIG already operates in English, French, Spanish, Russian and Arabic, with plans to add Portuguese and Vietnamese in the coming months and another 10 languages in development.

As TIG celebrates its fifth anniversary, Furdyk is most proud of the organization's record of "using ideas to build what is available on-line now." Correiro is putting into practice her statement to the World Economic Forum that "companies need to be responsible to the broader community and not just their shareholders." Through TIG, the two are investing talent, resources and energy in unleashing the power of youth. 🍁

**Check out TakingITGlobal at [www.TIG.org](http://www.TIG.org).**

# CANADA EXPANDS EFFORTS IN AFGHANISTAN

**A new initiative enhances Canada's engagement in Afghanistan by assisting Afghan efforts to stabilize the country's southern Kandahar province.**

The recent deployment of a Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) to Kandahar significantly supports Canada's objective of promoting stability along with reconstruction and development in Afghanistan.

The PRT—including about 250 Canadian Forces soldiers as well as RCMP officers, a representative from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and diplomats from Foreign Affairs Canada—will assist the Afghan central government in extending its authority and strengthening its credibility and effectiveness in and around Kandahar.

on Canada's "whole-of-government" approach in Afghanistan, begun in 2002 to provide diplomatic, development, defence and other support to the country.

"This initiative is a genuine demonstration by Foreign Affairs Canada, CIDA, the Canadian Forces and the RCMP of an integrated approach in line with our new international policy," said Foreign Affairs Minister Pierre Pettigrew. "This unique approach will assist Afghanistan in its efforts to become a stable, democratic and self-sustaining state, one that never again serves as a haven for terrorists."

The Canadian Forces will further increase their regional presence this February with a brigade headquarters and army task force situated in Kandahar under the U.S.-led Operation Enduring Freedom. With these deployments, Canada will be positioned to play a leadership role in Afghanistan, particularly in the south.

Canada's efforts have helped achieve real results, especially in security sector reform. The successful completion in July of the first two phases of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration program in Afghanistan saw some 63,000 former combatants lay down their arms. Canada also helped to create momentum and support for a program that secured 97 percent of the heavy weapons in the country.

Such progress is critical to the stabilization of regions outside of Kabul, where medical attention and measures to deal with extreme poverty and a lack of clean drinking water are urgently needed.

"Sustainable development requires security," noted International

Canadian Forces vehicles travel down a highway while on patrol in the Kandahar region as part of the Canadian PRT.

Cooperation Minister Aileen Carroll. "The PRT will work to stabilize the Kandahar region and, in turn, this will help create a positive environment where the security preconditions are met for development efforts to flourish."

Canada has signaled its determination with a pledge of \$616 million for development assistance to Afghanistan from 2001 to 2009. The pledge makes Afghanistan the single-largest recipient of Canadian bilateral assistance, much of which is directed to priorities identified by the Afghan government.

In efforts to assist the Afghan government and stabilize the Kandahar region, the PRT will help to promote central government policies and priorities with local authorities, monitor security and facilitate security sector reform.

Afghanistan is entering a new phase after September's parliamentary and provincial elections, which marked the end of the Bonn Agreement on Afghanistan, a framework for democratic transition outlining a number of benchmarks and a timeline. Canada played a key role in those elections by contributing more than \$13 million. Canadian Forces in Kabul also provided security during the elections, and Canadian monitors, including representatives of Canada's embassy, helped oversee the results of the voting. 🍁

**Additional information on Canada's efforts in Afghanistan is available at [www.canada-afghanistan.gc.ca](http://www.canada-afghanistan.gc.ca).**



Sgt. Chris Thombs of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry greets children during a patrol through Kandahar.

"This commitment is consistent with our new international and defence policies, which demonstrate Canada's emphasis on bringing stability to fragile states," said National Defence Minister Bill Graham.

Launched in August, the 18-month PRT undertaking in Kandahar builds



# IN BRIEF

## New words of warning

Travel warnings from Foreign Affairs Canada are now being issued with new terminology that clarifies and strengthens the alerts being communicated to Canadians considering travel to hazardous destinations.

The recent change eliminates the previous distinctions made between "Canadians" and "Canadian tourists" in favour of more categorical language that applies regardless of the reasons for travel.

"If the level of threat to a person's safety is high, Foreign Affairs Canada will now advise Canadians to avoid 'all travel' to that destination," explains Dan McTeague, who, as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, is responsible for Canadians abroad. "If the threat in a destination is not as great, the department will advise Canadians to avoid 'non-essential travel.'"

For example, if a nation is engaged in a war, a travel warning would likely state that "Foreign Affairs Canada advises against all travel to this country." For a nation recovering from civil unrest, the warning may read, "Foreign Affairs Canada advises against non-essential travel to this country."

There are nine levels of travel warnings issued by FAC for conditions such as armed conflicts, natural disasters and health emergencies.

"Travel warnings constitute the government's front-line advice to Canadians about what may be happening in a country that they are planning to visit or live in," says Foreign Affairs Minister Pierre Pettigrew.

The change aligns the terminology used in Canada's travel warnings with that used by other countries and government departments and responds to a request from the World Tourism Organization that authorities standardize the terms used in such warnings.

FAC travel reports for more than 200 destinations worldwide are available at [www.voyage.gc.ca](http://www.voyage.gc.ca). The travel warnings and travel reports are part of the government's Travel Information Program, which provides official advice to Canadians living and travelling abroad.



photo: Chor Sokunthea

Diplomatic opening: The disabled Canadian Men's Standing Volleyball Team played a major part in the first international sporting competition in Cambodia in 40 years.

## Volleyball champions

A group of disabled Canadian athletes who took part in Cambodia's first international sporting competition in more than 40 years achieved more than a first-place finish.

In a country devastated by conflict and landmines—some 70 percent of the players on Cambodia's disabled volleyball league are landmine survivors—the members of the Canadian Men's Standing Volleyball Team left a deep impression.

"The Canadian team was the hit of the tournament," says Donica Pottie, Canadian Ambassador to Cambodia, of the Asia-Oceania Volleyball Championships, which included Cambodia, Australia and Canada and were held at Phnom Penh Olympic Stadium in June.

The Canadians, ranked number one in the world, provided volleyball clinics and training sessions for the Cambodian

players. As the team had funds to send just five players and a coach to Phnom Penh, two Cambodian athletes were made honorary Canadians to join its ranks for the five-day tournament. The pair was chosen from a Cambodian league team renamed the Kampong Speu Canadians in honour of the visitors.

Seated with Cambodian officials and speaking at the event, Ms. Pottie felt the tournament was a diplomatic opening for Canada that proved inspirational. "It provided an occasion to stress Canada's support for mines action and our commitment to ensuring that human beings are able to live fully realized lives."

The Canadian team, buoyed by their adopted Cambodian members, also demonstrated some excellent playing, never dropping a single set. To see the Cambodia trip diary posted by Canadian team captain Neil Johnson, visit [www.volleyball.ca](http://www.volleyball.ca) and look under Team Canada – Disabled.

## Mooncakes, eh!

To mark the 35th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Canada, the two countries have produced the first-ever Canadian version of mooncakes.

The Canadian Embassy in China and Beijing's award-winning Fangshan restaurant have taken one of the finest traditions of the Chinese mid-autumn festival and combined it with the flavours most closely identified with Canada to offer smoked salmon, ice wine and maple syrup mooncakes.

The distinctive cakes bring together old and the new, east and west, imperial Chinese cuisine and contemporary Canadian flavours to celebrate Canada-China ties. A team of experts created and perfected the recipes and production techniques, enabling mooncake lovers in China to sample the Canadian flavours, chosen to represent all regions of the country.



photo: FAC

Mooncakes showcase Canada



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## Eyes on the world

At 23, Matt McCormick is living on his third continent in as many years—and eager to show others what he's finding out there in the world.

A recent computer science graduate from the University of Victoria, McCormick "discovered a passion" for travel three years ago when he participated in a four-month work exchange program in Hong Kong sponsored by AIESEC International, a student-run organization that offers global internships. Last year, McCormick worked in Nairobi, Kenya, as a volunteer with AIESEC and he's currently on a 12-month internship with the organization in Zagreb, Croatia.

Always interested in photography, McCormick (pictured in the top photo with the cannon) finds a digital camera a natural way to document his travels. He belongs to an on-line "photo community" called Flickr where he shares his work with friends and family—so far he's posted more than 3,000 pictures from six countries. In Croatia, he is most impressed with traditional town squares and the evidence of the war that just 10 years ago ravaged the eastern part of the country, where houses are destroyed and old buildings marked by bullet holes. "It's eye-opening," he says.

Find these and other photos by this young Canadian shutterbug at [www.flickr.com/photos/mattmccormick](http://www.flickr.com/photos/mattmccormick).

