

THE ALBERTA COUNCIL FOR GLOBAL
COOPERATION PRESENTS...

top 30 under 30



30 YOUTH FROM ALBERTA & AROUND THE GLOBE
WHO ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD

This magazine was written by Alexander Babaris, managed by Connor MacDonald, and designed by Tikina Gordey using the typefaces of Cronos Pro, Bebas Neue, & Lobster.

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**International
Development Week**

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I am making a difference in the world!

ABOUT ACGC

The Alberta Council for Global Cooperation (ACGC) is a coalition of voluntary sector organizations located in Alberta, working locally and globally to achieve sustainable human development.

ACGC is committed to international cooperation that is people-centered, democratic, just, inclusive, and respectful of the environment and indigenous cultures. The Council works towards ending poverty and achieving a peaceful and healthy world, with dignity and full participation for all.

Members of the Council pursue these goals through supporting global citizenship programs and participatory projects with international partners.

The Council's goal is to support the work of its members through networking, leadership, information sharing, training and coordination, and represents their interests when dealing with government and others. The objectives of the Council are to promote and mobilize greater Albertan participation in assisting international development.

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CONTENTS

EXTRAORDINARY YOUNG...	2	18. PATRICK MILLER	24
WHY ADDRESSING...	3	19. RAJVIR GILL	25
ISTANBUL PRINCIPLES...	4	20. ROSS ANDERSON	26
		21. SABRINA ATWAL	27
		22. SAIMA BUTT	28
		23. SARAH WINSTANLEY	29
		24. STEVEN CROWCHILD	30
		25. TARYN MEYERS	31
		26. TIF MCNAUGHTON	32
		27. TONY ZELAYA LOPEZ	33
		28. VANESSA KOHUT	34
		29. YENI CRISTABEL LOPEZ TOVAR	35
		30. YESENIA LAZARO ROQUE	36
		HONOURABLE MENTIONS	37
		I AM MAKING A DIFFERENCE	38
		MEMBERSHIP CONTACTS	39

top 30 under 30

1. ALISA TUUKIMAKI	7
2. ALIZA DADANI	8
3. AMY COPPENS	9
4. AMY JEANNOTTE	10
5. BRYCE MELDRUM	11
6. DALYCE MCELHINNEY	12
7. DANA BERGQUIST	13
8. JEN HOYER	14
9. JOCELYN DAVIS	15
10. JULIA DALMAN	16
11. JULIE LE	17
12. KAMALA K.C.	18
13. KATHERINE ISTEAD	19
14. KIRSTEN POON	20
15. NATHAN ANDREWS	21
16. NIKKI SHAFFEEULLAH	22
17. NIKKI WEBB	23

Extraordinary YOUNG PEOPLE ARE CREATING A MORE JUST & SUSTAINABLE WORLD!

This magazine shares some of the great stories of what is being done in Alberta and around the world by today's youth. Read these amazing stories and get inspired to create your own chapter!

This year's Top 30 under 30 magazine features youth from Alberta and the Global South who play an active role in making a positive difference and are role models for other youth. ACGC received incredible nominations from all over the world and is thrilled to feature this year's honourees!

The Top 30 under 30 magazine is a part of the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation International Development Week (IDW) 2013 programming. The theme of IDW 2013 is "I am Making a Difference".

For the past 23 years, International Development Week (IDW) has been celebrated in Canada during the first week of February. It provides a unique opportunity for Canadian organizations and individuals to share their successes and achievements in international development. If you want to learn more about IDW programming visit www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/IDW or check out local events on **Twitter at #IDW2013**.

Thanks to all the youth who participated and all those who took the time to nominate them.



WHY ADDRESSING *global poverty* IS SO IMPORTANT

Creating a more just and equitable world is beneficial to everyone. The world is a global space and what happens in one area is no longer isolated within borders, nations, or geographic regions. Advances in technology and our ever increasing ability to communicate and connect has shrunk our world and made it more imperative that our actions are positive and move us towards global solutions.

Canadians have always been and continue to be strong supporters of international development and global poverty reduction. Since the 1960's, Canada has been a leader in international cooperation, earning us a positive reputation that has far exceeded our size. This reputation has been a hallmark of what makes us all Canadian. A 2012 Vision Critical poll showed that the majority of Canadians strongly believe that reducing global poverty is our collective responsibility.

Global poverty is identified by Canadians as one of the top three issues facing the world today and many believe it is a human rights obligation to act, according to a poll conducted by Vision Critical in 2012.

Here's what we know:

Canadians show more optimism towards the impact of global poverty reduction than their US and UK counterparts. In particular **75% of Canadians believe that reducing global poverty will help to fulfill human rights obligations**, while only 56% of US residents and 55% of UK residents believe the same.

One-third of Canadians rank global poverty (hunger in the world) among the 1st, 2nd or 3rd most concerning issues to them globally. The economy, wars/conflict, human rights, and environmental issues -- all closely linked to global poverty -- are also top of mind.

The majority of Canadians believe that reducing global poverty will have impacts in other areas, including fulfilling human rights obligations, improving Canada's international reputation, reducing global conflict, and reducing the risks of pandemics.

Want to learn more about this poll? Visit www.icnpoll.ca

Young Albertans and young people around the world are working together to combat global poverty, structural violence, environmental crises, and a number of other international development and global issues facing the world today. Taking on these challenges is vital if we are to find effective and sustainable solutions to the challenges faced by humanity in 2013.

These young people are making a difference. How will you make a difference?



ISTANBUL CSO *development effectiveness* PRINCIPLES

Civil society organizations are a vibrant and essential feature in the democratic life of countries across the globe. CSOs collaborate with the full diversity of people and promote their rights. The essential characteristics of CSOs as distinct development actors – that they are voluntary, diverse, non-partisan, autonomous, non-violent, working and collaborating for change – are the foundation for the Istanbul principles for CSO development effectiveness. These principles guide the work and practices of civil society organizations in both peaceful and conflict situations, in different areas of work from grassroots to policy advocacy, and in a continuum from humanitarian emergencies to long-term development.

1. RESPECT & PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE

CSOs are effective as development actors when they ... develop and implement strategies, activities and practices that promote individual and collective human rights, including the right to development, with dignity, decent work, social justice and equity for all people.

2. EMBODY GENDER EQUALITY & EQUITY WHILE PROMOTING WOMEN & GIRLS' RIGHTS

CSOs are effective as development actors when they ... promote and practice development cooperation embodying gender equity, reflecting women's concerns and experience, while supporting women's efforts to realize their individual and collective rights, participating as fully empowered actors in the development process.

3. FOCUS ON PEOPLE'S EMPOWERMENT, DEMOCRATIC OWNERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

CSOs are effective as development actors when they ... support the empowerment and inclusive participation of people to expand their democratic ownership over policies and development initiatives that affect their lives, with an emphasis on the poor and marginalized.

4. PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

CSOs are effective as development actors when they ... develop and implement priorities and approaches that promote environmental sustainability for present and future generations, including urgent responses to climate crises, with specific attention to the socio-economic, cultural and indigenous conditions for ecological integrity and justice.

5. PRACTICE TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

CSOs are effective as development actors when they ... demonstrate a sustained organizational commitment to transparency, multiple accountability, and integrity in their internal operations.

6. PURSUE EQUITABLE PARTNERSHIPS & SOLIDARITY

CSOs are effective as development actors when they ... commit to transparent relationships with CSOs and other development actors, freely and as equals, based on shared development goals and values, mutual respect, trust, organizational autonomy, long-term accompaniment, solidarity and global citizenship.

7. CREATE & SHARE KNOWLEDGE & COMMIT TO MUTUAL LEARNING

CSOs are effective as development actors when they ... enhance the ways they learn from their experience, from other CSOs and development actors, integrating evidence from development practice and results, including the knowledge and wisdom of local and indigenous communities, strengthening innovation and their vision for the future they would like to see.

8. COMMIT TO REALIZING POSITIVE SUSTAINABLE CHANGE

CSOs are effective as development actors when they ... collaborate to realize sustainable outcomes and impacts of their development actions, focusing on results and conditions for lasting change for people, with special emphasis on poor and marginalized populations, ensuring an enduring legacy for present and future generations.

Guided by these Istanbul principles, CSOs are committed to take pro-active actions to improve and be fully accountable for their development practices. Equally important will be enabling policies and practices by all actors. Through actions consistent with these principles, donor and partner country governments demonstrate their Accra Agenda for Action pledge that they “share an interest in ensuring that CSO contributions to development reach their full potential”. All governments have an obligation to uphold basic human rights – among others, the right to association, the right to assembly, and the freedom of expression. Together these are pre-conditions for effective development.

**Istanbul, Turkey
September 29, 2010**



30

top 30 under 30

30 YOUTH FROM ALBERTA & THE GLOBAL SOUTH
WHO ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD



“ I SEE A FUTURE WHERE COMMUNITIES ARE RECOGNIZED AS THE FOCAL POINT FOR SUSTAINABILITY. ”

ALISA TUKKIMAKI

Alisa has a long history of both working and volunteering in the area she is most passionate about: community development. She currently works as the Program Lead in Community Development for the Older Adults Team at Calgary Family Services, working to support community initiatives that recognize and utilize the capacity of older adults for the betterment of the Calgary-wide community. She also works as a part-time Coordinator for the Action Coalition on Human Trafficking (ACT), collaborating with local and federal law enforcement as well as multiple NGOs to develop provincial and municipal protocols around issues of human trafficking. This is an ideal position for her, allowing Alisa to focus on human trafficking and its related issues.

While at the University of Calgary completing her Masters of Social Work, Alisa cofounded Citizens for Social Justice, a University of Calgary student-based group, focused on creating events and workshops

for and with community members and local organizations to promote social justice. In 2011, Alisa was awarded the prestigious Irma Parhad Summer Studentship. The studentship provided Alisa with the opportunity to work with the United Nations Institute on Training and Research (UNITAR). In this position, Alisa assisted in the coordination and management of the Post-Conflict Reconstruction Afghan Fellowship Program, which involved developing relevant training in partnership with Afghani civil servants.

Alisa first became interested in global issues in her early twenties while volunteering in hospitals, hospices, and orphanages in Haiti. This experience exposed Alisa to the challenging realities that many people outside of Canada face. Not to focus exclusively on the international scene, Alisa has also volunteered locally with AIDS Calgary and the Calgary Catholic Immigrant Society programs. She even served as the

primary contact for a refugee family from Colombia resettling in Calgary, helping them to adapt to Canadian life.

Alisa has high hopes for those following in her footsteps—she had her first experience at the community level and is a strong believer in working close to home. She knows first-hand the power of working in communities where you have a strong cultural understanding. Youth have the ability to use their gifts and talents to make their communities and cities better places to live.

“ MY HOPE FOR THE FUTURE IS THAT WE ACQUIRE THE ABILITY TO RECOGNIZE EACH INDIVIDUAL FOR THEIR TRUE WORTH AND STOP RESTRICTING POTENTIALS AND AMBITIONS BASED SIMPLY ON WHAT CULTURAL NORMS AT THE TIME DICTATE. ”

ALIZA DADANI

Aliza's world view is shaped by both her family life and her involvement with the Edmonton Ismaili Muslim community. An Ismaili Muslim herself, Aliza constantly searches for ways to link social services with members of her community. She is a member of Edmonton's Social Welfare Board, which links Ismaili Edmontonians in need of social support systems to relevant services. Aliza is a volunteer researcher for the Edmonton's Women's Shelter (WIN House), and has developed girls' empowerment curriculum for the Ismaili community in Calgary.

Aliza's work extends into the realm of politics. Her efforts have led her to work on campaigns for women candidates in previous elections, most recently Rachel Notley and Lori Sigurdson. The Alberta NDP is definitely benefitting from Aliza's presence as an executive member of the Women's Caucus where she works on the Alberta NDP's policies that affect

women's rights in Alberta. Serving on the Women's Caucus, among other things, fulfills one of Aliza's ethos: contributing in the community in which a person lives.

Aliza's interest in international development has also been spurred by her involvement in women & gender studies, and studies of systems of oppression. This is because systems of oppression are created when various cultural, historical, economic, political, and social forces combine to determine the value of certain groups of people over others, an apt description of the lives of women not only in the developing world but also Canada. She takes great interest in methods used to combat deeply embedded cultural hierarchies and discrimination, particularly barriers that have been long set up against women. She admires initiatives that seek to inspire future generations to view and value women as strong leaders in

community settings.

Food, culture and health occupy much of Aliza's free time. Finding value in every nook and cranny of life, Aliza seeks out new and exciting recipes, exploring nutritional profiles, and studying the intricacies of food science. Food, in Aliza's opinion, is a powerful cultural tool; it can bring people together, it can break down barriers, it can make us strong, and it is necessary to propel us forward to accomplish new tasks.



AMY COPPENS

Amy currently volunteers as the Director of Development for a non-profit organization called the Etisah Foundation. The mission of the Etisah Foundation is to support Cameroonian youth in ways identified by Cameroonians, with educational initiatives and infrastructure development at the Save the Children Alliance Orphanage in Limbe, Cameroon. The Foundation's current project is building an addition on the grounds of the orphanage and Amy is going to Cameroon in March to oversee the continuing progress on the project. Amy has successfully created and overseen several other projects including a very successful comedy festival called Laugh Out Loud 2012, which raised over \$16000. This initiative helped fund the construction of the orphanage and brought Josephine Ngale, Director of the Save the Children Alliance Orphanage, to Edmonton as a guest of honour.

Amy's first involvement with global issues was at a young age. She started volunteering with the Bissell Centre at their Moonlight Bay Camp when she was 13 years old. It was there that she began working with some of Edmonton's inner city youth and their families. Ever since then, she has been passionate about making a difference in the lives of those less fortunate, especially women and children. In her opinion, the rights of women and children are two of the most pressing concerns facing international development in today's world.

Amy's passion and energy are evident from the first moment you meet her, and when she's not pouring herself into development work she spends her time playing sport and training. She is currently training to run her first Ironman and works as a personal trainer at Blitz Conditioning, a local gym. Given her passion for active lifestyles, it is not surprising to learn that she believes that sport and lifestyle can constitute an important part of international development. This is why she plans on initiating fitness through play programming with the children at the orphanage when she is in Cameroon in the spring.



“ WE LIVE IN A COUNTRY THAT AFFORDS US THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADVOCATE FOR THOSE UNABLE TO DO SO FOR THEMSELVES. FOR YOUNG PEOPLE LOOKING TO GET INVOLVED IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT THERE ARE MANY ORGANIZATIONS, LIKE THE ETISAH FOUNDATION, THAT HAVE OR ARE DEVELOPING YOUTH COUNCILS TO BE A PART OF. ”



AMY JEANNOTTE

“ WHEN YOUTH HAVE A SENSE OF BELONGING THEY WANT TO MAKE AN IMPACT AND FEEL EMPOWERED TO DO SO. YOUTH INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN INTERNATIONAL ISSUES WHEN THEY HAVE ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE, SUPPORT FROM A MENTOR, AND THE MEANS GET INVOLVED. ”

Amy first became interested in global issues while she was completing her Bachelor's degree in Child and Youth Care. Not only did she learn about issues that children and youth face in Edmonton but also about the obstacles that youth face all over the world. Through her work as a Youth Worker with the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, she recognized why families and their children come to Canada and the challenges they face in their home countries. Her work focuses on working with immigrant girls and assisting them with their integration efforts in Canada. She sees herself as both a teacher and a student. Newcomers to Canada have taught her just as many lessons about their home countries as she has taught about Canada.

Volunteering is something that has enriched Amy's life for years. She credits her work at a young age at family crisis shelters, homeless shelters, and

community initiatives for developing her own interests in supporting the global community. Amy has begun to extend her efforts all over the world. She has volunteered on projects all over the Americas, including a position with ProWorld which sent her to Mexico to build a school, while a stint with Habitat for Humanity had her building homes in Costa Rica.

Amy is very proud of her work around International Women's Day and International Day of the Girl Child. Annually for the past three years, Amy has created, promoted, and organized an event called Celebrating our Inner Beauty to empower young girls and women to recognize their self-worth and beauty. Amy's efforts do not stop there. She also serves as a mentor for weekly girls meetings. She loves seeing the difference she makes in these young girls' lives.

All of her combined experiences have put her in an excellent position to sit on the board of the

Strategic Alliance of Advancement for Immigrant and Refugee Children and Youth Committee (SAA-IRCY). This has further allowed her to advocate for the needs of immigrant youth, and in particular, immigrant girls.



BRYCE MELDRUM

5

Bryce Meldrum is the Executive Director of Canadian Humanitarian (CH), a non-profit, non-religious organization that aims to break the cycle of poverty for communities in Ethiopia by providing orphans and vulnerable children and their families with access to health care, education, vocational training, and the basic necessities of life. He also serves on the board of Saamis Immigration, which provides, programs and services for newly arrived immigrants and refugees.

Bryce first became interested in global issues in 2004 and fostered his love of international development through his studies and travels. Before finishing his degree from the University of Calgary in 2009, he had already spent significant time volunteering at home in Canada as well as abroad in Africa and the Caribbean.

Bryce is passionate about access to education and HIV/AIDS treatment strategies in his development

work. He feels just as comfortable teaching participants job skills as he does interacting with local project managers, business owners and healthcare officials when he's in Ethiopia. CH has partnered with several different organizations abroad including the PATH Ethiopia Literacy, Educational, and Vocational Centre; the Support Street Children and Mothers (SSCM); and the Bright Ethiopian Kids Association (BEKA). On the ground, these organizations aim to teach employability skills, foster local economies, and promote education.

Bryce works tirelessly in Canada to develop support projects, motivate volunteers, encourage fundraising efforts as well as effectively manage CH. The knowledge that not everyone has the opportunities that someone born in Canada has constantly pushes Bryce to work harder and harder to achieve his goals.

Bryce is a well-rounded individual with a variety of

interests; he regularly plays basketball and has dedicated significant time to researching his family history when he's not busy with his other commitments.

“
MY VISION FOR AN EQUITABLE, SUSTAINABLE FUTURE INCLUDES CURBED CONSUMPTION IN DEVELOPED NATIONS ACCOMPANIED BY INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES, SPECIFICALLY UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO EDUCATION IN LESS DEVEL-

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“AS YOUTH, WE ARE STILL CREATING OUR IDENTITIES AND THE FUTURE BECKONS. WE HAVE OUR WHOLE LIVES AHEAD OF US TO CARVE A MEANINGFUL HISTORY AND IT IS IMPORTANT TO START NOW.”

DALYCE MCELHINNEY



Dalcyce has spent the last five years dedicated to the global community as an educator. She has served in her local Edmonton community as well as abroad in Nicaragua, Sweden, and Singapore always in the pursuit of strengthened intercultural understandings and community relations. In Edmonton, she volunteers as an English as a Second Language instructor at the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers. Her students are primarily senior citizens struggling with a transition to a new culture. Along this vein, Dalcyce also works with University of Alberta International, supporting international students in settlement and providing opportunities for them to engage themselves and Canadians. This has given Dalcyce the opportunity to experience a wide variety of cultures right in Edmonton.

In Estelí, Nicaragua, Dalcyce had the opportunity to volunteer with FUNARTE, working with at-risk

kids to augment their self-esteem through artistic development. To assist with the emotional recovery of a community after a tropical depression, she wrote and performed a puppet show in Spanish to help the children to feel safe talking about their experience and to learn how to protect themselves before the next storm. She also designed a brochure for students that included emergency contact information, safety precautions, and an evacuation map for the community. Demonstrating a lasting impact, the project sponsor Save the Children continues to use the puppet show and brochure in communities suffering from similar challenges

Passionate about providing access to education, Dalcyce believes that only when we become aware of what is limiting our potential and are given the relevant skills to overcome these limits, will we be inspired and able to create change. For change to

be effective and sustainable, it must be directed by those faced with these limitations.

To Dalcyce, global citizenship means understanding that we are not isolated individuals living in isolated countries. We are entitled to human rights but we also have shared responsibilities; besides recognizing the impact of our actions we also must do our part in supporting our neighbours. Through cooperation and responsible partnerships founded in good communication, we can work towards these lofty goals.

DANA BERGQUIST

Dana's interest in global issues arose out of an internship that she had at the age of 21. She worked with StreetWorks, an inner city primary health-care organization where she provided health assessments, counseling, education, screening, and immunizations to underserved populations. This experience provided her with the opportunity to meet many remarkable people from all walks of life, many of whom were involved with injection drug use and the sex trade industry. This experience sparked her interest in learning about and contributing to the world outside of her social network.

Dana's experience in the world of international development has been full of different experiences. One of her first projects involved traveling to Legodimo and Mapungubwe nature reserves in Botswana and South Africa to volunteer on an environmental conservation project sponsored by Projects Abroad. While finishing her Master's Degree in Public Health and with the support of CIDA's Students for Development program, Dana moved to the rural town of Mongu, Zambia for four months to work with two Zambian organizations. There, she worked with Zambia Integrated Systems Strengthening Program to increase the utilization of public health interventions at district and community levels. The second organization, Adolescent Reproductive Health Advocates (ARHA), is a youth-based Zambian NGO whose mission is to contribute to youth empowerment to achieve lasting improvement in their health, financial and social well-being. Dana conducted a gender analysis project to assist ARHA in building their organizational capacity to respond to gender inequities.

Dana is passionate about attaining a sustainable and equitable future. Concerning development work, she aims to bring an element of health equity to any work that she is undertaking. She knows that working towards equity is not easy but finds inspiration in the words of Margaret Mead to "never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that has." It is this phrase that continues to push her towards working for an equitable, sustainable future in a just and fair globalized world.



“FOR ME, BEING A GLOBAL CITIZEN IS RECOGNIZING THAT ISSUES IN ONE COMMUNITY (OR COUNTRY) CANNOT BE DIVORCED FROM ISSUES IN ANOTHER. THIS REMINDS ME THAT MY INDIVIDUAL ASPIRATIONS AND SUBSEQUENT ACTIONS CAN & SHOULD WORK TOWARDS BEING A POSITIVE MEMBER OF COMMUNITIES, BOTH LOCALLY & GLOBALLY.”



JEN HOYER

“ I SEE A MORE EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE THROUGH INDIVIDUALS TAKING RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITIES FOR THE ISSUES THAT ARE MOST PRESSING TO THEM. ”

Jen directs a very successful music programme for youth ages 9-17 at the Keiskamma Music Academy in Eastern Cape, South Africa. Funded by the Keiskamma Trust, the Keiskamma Music Academy assists a community that is still grappling with the challenges of HIV/AIDS and where opportunities for growth and personal development are rare. The Academy provides free music lessons to interested and energetic students in the community. Jen, utilizing her music training from both King's University College and McGill University, gives one to one instruction to students on a full range of recorders from soprano to great bass, accompanies ensembles on piano, and nurtures a distinctive blend of classical and indigenous instruments. She also arranges music to make it suitable for different skill levels to ensure all students can participate. The end result is a wonderful mix of

music with selections ranging from early medieval pieces to upbeat Xhosa tunes.

Jen's passion is helping people imagine and reach their potential. Using music, she helps students to express themselves and to realize that their goals are achievable. She always aims to provide an avenue for students to express themselves and their hopes for the future and gives them a wide variety of communication tools, which help them to pursue their goals, whether musical or non-musical.

Jen's inspiration for working in international development comes from her upbringing. She was raised with a strong awareness of the world and a sense of responsibility for social justice in her community. She first became involved at the age of 10, helping her father build homes for Habitat for Humanity. Locally, she worked with the Edmonton Social Planning

Council setting up threeSOURCE, an online hub for research and information about social services in Alberta. Importantly, she feels that her involvement in Alberta gave her a good grounding in development work. She believes that everyone has something to offer those in need in their own community, and it's not necessary to go to a far-away place to become involved.

Jen's own interests have flourished while abroad; her love of traveling and exploring have led her to travel throughout Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho and South Africa.

9

JOCELYN DAVIS

Jocelyn is a life-long supporter of community engagement and development work. Ever since she was young she has been involved in community action, but the event that really spurred her to action was the 2004 earthquake and tsunami that occurred in the Indian Ocean. As a direct result, she founded a youth group to fundraise for sustainable international development in East Asia, Central Africa, and Papua New Guinea. Her organization, the 8th Rung, has donated over \$170,000 dollars to projects that are making a real difference in the lives of those involved.

Jocelyn is very interested in the interconnectivity of international development. The 8th Rung selects projects that address access to clean water and solar lighting with an emphasis on sustainability. As chair of the 8th Rung, Jocelyn strongly believes that youth empowerment and involvement is essential to any thriving community.

Jocelyn also has extensive experience in the media. In 2008 she created an excellent video interviewing Camille Dow Baker from the Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST). Jocelyn focused on how having access to clean water enables girls and women to contribute more meaningfully to society. Since girls are often tasked with the collection of water, providing access to clean water closer to home can provide girls with the opportunity to devote more time to their education.

Outside of her international work, Jocelyn is very active in her Calgary community. She started volunteering at the Calgary Food Bank at the age of 13, one of the youngest people to volunteer on a consistent basis. She also spends a significant amount of time advocating for youth empowerment. She believes that since philanthropy is a habit-forming activity easily started in youth, it is imperative that new approaches be found to integrate youth into the voluntary sector.

“ A GLOBAL CITIZEN IS COMMITTED TO BEING PART OF A DIVERSE GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS WHO COLLABORATE FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE WORLD AS A WHOLE. ”



“ I ENCOURAGE YOUTH TO GET OUT THERE, MAKE AS MANY CONNECTIONS AS THEY CAN, BUT ABOVE ALL TO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THEIR VOICE AND REFUSE TO REMAIN SILENT.

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10

JULIA DALMAN

Julia epitomizes the do-it-yourself ethic that NGOs rely so proudly upon. Seeing a niche to fill, she founded the Global Café at Jasper Place High School, which offers students a place to learn critical skills to become active citizens and discuss local and global issues. Her leadership at the Café has allowed it to blossom into an important community hub used by a range of organizations, many of which have connected with the student body at Jasper Place.

Julia is a graduate of Next Up Edmonton, a program aimed at empowering the next generation of progressive social change leaders in Canada. Since graduating from the program, Julia has been actively involved in the Next Up alumni network, which includes alumni from BC, Alberta, and Saskatchewan, and is currently acting as part of the mentorship team for the current cohort of Next Up participants.

Julia is a founding member of ConsentEd, an 11-person collective that has created a centralized resource on sexual violence that is accessible to everyone. They launched their website in April 2012 and it has already achieved over 7500 unique viewers from all over the world. ConsentEd also recently launched I Deserve, a photo campaign where individuals can be a part of the website by submitting a photo stating all of the things that a person hopes for in a world without sexual violence. Julia is of the opinion that a common struggle will create champions for change, which is a better and more effective path than looking for help from outside.

Julia believes that society needs to take a different view on youth and the value that they bring to communities. For example, youth are often viewed as service users, simply taking instead of contribut-

ing. However, she doesn't feel this really encompasses what youth offer. They provide big ideas, hope, joy, and energy. Engagement can provide benefits for both youth and organizations; not only will organizations benefit from youth involvement, but youth will have the opportunity to make lasting connections which will empower them in the future.

JULIE LE

Julie is a grade eleven student at Father Lacombe High School in Calgary, Alberta. She first became interested in global issues through involvement with her school's Social Justice Committee. Julie has always had a desire to help others and realized that she could, even from a young age. She has committed herself to the pursuit of social justice as much as she can. She has been an active member of the group Calgary (Mob)ilizers, a youth group associated with Free the Children. Free the Children is an international charity and educational partner working to empower children in order for them to achieve their fullest potential as agents of change in a new global world. Julie's efforts have brought her as far away as Peru to participate in ACGC's 2012 Change Your World Youth Leadership Tour. There, she studied development issues and returned with a greater sense of the challenges faced by developing countries.

Julie recognizes the importance of a holistic and all-encompassing approach to development. While acknowledging the interconnectedness of the different aspects of development, Julie's interests lie in education. She strongly asserts that without the proper education, a child will not be able to seize the opportunities available and become self-reliant. Closely behind education, Julie also believes that much could be gained by raising awareness on the issue of gender inequalities in the developing world.

Turning her words into action, Julie initiated the I Am Not an Object campaign. Held annually on the 25th of November, this campaign aims to raise awareness concerning gender equality. The concept is a "dress-down day," in which women dress conservatively to show their objection to the objectification of women. Over 33,000 people have participated in this hugely successful campaign!

Even with her current interests becoming more and more international, Julie believes that a start in international development is available, even desirable, by looking around your community. The opportunities to become involved are nearly endless; great ideas include volunteering at homeless shelters and food banks as well as participating in, or even founding, your school social justice committee.



“ I HAVE HAD A STRONG INTEREST IN GENDER EQUALITY BECAUSE OUR GENERATION OFTEN DISREGARDS AND IGNORES IT. MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE GENDER EQUALITY IS A PAST ISSUE WITH LITTLE RELEVANCE TODAY BUT A GENUINE LOOK AT THE WORLD, INCLUDING CANADA, SHOWS THAT WORK STILL REMAINS.

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11



“CHANGE ALWAYS STARTS WITH AN INDIVIDUAL SO LET’S START INDIVIDUALLY.”

KAMALA K.C.

Kamala grew up in a small village in Nepal where many of her community members fell sick or died due to a lack of clean water, basic sanitation, and hygiene. This personal experience motivated Kamala to study Public Health and begin to educate and empower communities in Nepal with WASH education (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene). When a cholera epidemic struck Nepal in 2009, Kamala and her friends launched a youth-led campaign called Paschim Paaila. Through this effort, Kamala worked as a campaign coordinator, facilitating WASH and emergency awareness with groups of youth at both the community and national level. This project was so successful it won a grant from the UN-Habitat Urban Youth Fund in 2010. With this extra support, Kamala began working as a project officer at Paschim Paaila, launching a Youth-Led WASH Empowerment Project in slums and squatter communities of Kathmandu Valley. The results of this project led to an increased awareness on WASH issues in two slum communities; residents gained access to safe drinking water and began practicing healthy hygiene behaviors.

Women and girls face more barriers in accessing WASH, in particular when it comes to menstrual hygiene. To address this issue, Kamala facilitates workshops for school girls to educate them on healthy menstrual hygiene practices and how to make their own menstrual pads using local materials.

In addition to her work in Nepal on WASH issues, Kamala also participated as a videographer and local expert in a documentary film produced by CAWST’s Youth Wavemakers Program. Upon completion, this film will be shared with Canadian youth to educate them on water, hygiene and sanitation issues in Nepal, while inspiring them to follow their Nepalese peers and take action on water issues within their own communities.

KATHERINE ISTEAD

Katherine's first involvement with global issues came through an organization many girls attend but don't connect to international development: the Girl Guides of Canada. She has been an active member of the organization for 22 years, currently volunteering as a program leader for girls aged 5-11. She always endeavours to be a role model for positive, passionate living, exposes her protégés to global issues and instills in them a sense of possibility and impact.

Katherine's love of volunteering has brought her to all different corners of the globe. She has participated in meaningful building projects in Mexico, Kenya, Guatemala, and is currently working in Peru. Not limited to building homes, Katherine is active in environmental sustainability and animal rights projects at home and abroad. She has volunteered at the Calgary Zoo for 11 years, spent time at the Wildlife Friends Foundation of Thailand, and is looking forward to her next placement at the National Zoo of Nicaragua!

One of Katherine's most rewarding experiences was the two months that she spent volunteering in India with Tender Heart. This women-run NGO has a project in the rural community of Bhatola aiming to empower women by helping them to identify their skills and market their goods through fair trade. Katherine believed that she could make a greater difference through her actions rather than words, so she quickly began to utilize her administrative abilities to show local women that these jobs were valued and accessible for anyone.

Katherine's many interests have come in handy in her work. She loves languages and through a lot of hard work, in addition to English, now speaks French, Portuguese, Spanish, and German. Her love of literature and creative writing has also proved useful; Katherine has published several pieces on international volunteer websites. Her boundless energy and willingness to give will serve her well as she aspires to earn an MBA in International Organizations to further her ability to work in international development.



“AS GLOBAL CITIZENS, I FEEL WE ARE RESPONSIBLE TO ONE ANOTHER TO PROVIDE HELP TO THOSE IN NEED, REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL DIVIDES, GEOGRAPHIC BARRIERS, OR CULTURAL DIFFERENCES. IT DOESN'T MEAN PRETENDING DIFFERENCES DON'T EXIST, BUT RATHER, ACKNOWLEDGING THEM AND WORKING TO ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION SO THAT RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS CAN EXIST WITHOUT INJUSTICE AND INTOLERANCE.”

13

“ BEING A GLOBAL CITIZEN IS NOT ONLY STARTING AND CONTRIBUTING TO EFFORTS ON THE GROUND TO ADDRESS GLOBAL ISSUES BUT ALSO RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT THE CHALLENGES OUR WORLD FACES TODAY. GLOBAL CITIZENS FIND WAYS TO INSPIRE AND INVOLVE MORE PEOPLE TO JOIN THE EFFORT TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE.

”

14

KIRSTEN POON

In 2011 Kirsten cofounded *Literacy Without Borders* (LWB), a not-for-profit organization that aims to help communities develop sustainable literacy improvement programs. They recruit volunteers to share and adapt literacy models with local leaders in international communities over 18 months. By educating and working collaboratively with community members, LWB aims to ensure that impactful and lasting literacy programs will be implemented. Kirsten helped plan and facilitate LWB's first literacy training program in June 2012 where they worked with 30 Belizean government and community leaders. Truly international, LWB has secured funding from the Taiwanese government for four new literacy training programs that involve the Belizean government.

While LWB focuses on an international problem, Kirsten also values the issues facing her local community. Therefore, as Chair of the City of Edmonton

Youth Council (CEYC), she led a partnership between LWB and CEYC to organize a literacy improvement program at an inner city elementary school in Edmonton. The project also aimed to increase student self-esteem and resiliency levels. Kirsten was an engaging mentor to the students, especially the girls, as they looked up to her and sought her advice for school and future careers. Notably, Kirsten was also the first female Chair of CEYC, and CEYC flourished behind her leadership. Furthermore, through her role as a mentor and role model, she empowered the girls of CEYC to become involved and educated in civic issues.

It was Kirsten's involvement with the Edmonton Centennial Interact Club (Junior Rotary) that sparked her passion for global issues and it was with them that Kirsten first went to Belize promoting literacy. Kirsten is a strong believer in the integration of youth

into international development. Becoming involved in international development at a young age teaches youth much about themselves and the world. Kirsten recommends talking to role models and mentors in your local community and finding organizations that support and advocate for issues you are passionate about.



“ A GLOBAL CITIZEN IS SOMEONE WHO IS AWARE OF THE WORLD AROUND HIM/HER. THIS AWARENESS COMES AS A RESULT OF THE ABILITY TO LEARN, UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE BOTH THE DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES PEOPLE HAVE WITHOUT PREJUDICE. ”

15

NATHAN ANDREWS

Nathan convened an international conference in Edmonton focusing on Africa's development. This conference aimed to bring a variety of community organizers, academics, and policy makers together to discuss ways in which communities can work with each other toward sustainable development in Africa. As the convener and chair of the conference, Nathan's responsibilities included coordinating a number of individuals and groups to draw the vision, mission, and action plan for the conference. Nathan also played a lead role in engaging with community and civic leaders, writing funding proposals and successfully acquiring grants to support the conference. The conference, put on in February 2012, was a huge success with over 100 participants. Nathan facilitated the collection of some of the papers presented at the conference into an edited volume. This book, titled "Africa Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow: Exploring

the Multidimensional Discourses on Development" and edited by Nathan, is coming out in 2013. Building on this experience, Nathan is spearheading an undergraduate conference titled Africa Re-imagined: Ideas, Models and Innovation.

Broadly, Nathan's research interests lie in social justice and equity in the context of poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihood alternatives for people who dwell in resource-rich towns and cities. Nathan's PhD dissertation focuses on the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of foreign mining companies in Ghana, with particular emphasis on how communities, and especially women, are incorporated in the design and implementation of CSR initiatives. Due to his efforts, hard work, and results, Nathan recently received both the Vanier and Trudeau doctoral scholarships for his PhD work. He is the current Vice-President Academic of the Graduate Students'

Association at the University of Alberta.

Nathan's path to PhD studies has followed an incredible trajectory. His broad interests compelled him to volunteer for health-related exercises, such as the 2001 and 2005 polio immunization exercises, in his home country of Ghana. While living in Ghana, Nathan worked as a journalist, covering ex-US President Bush's visit to Ghana and participating in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, both of which further sparked an interest in foreign policy issues. Nathan's experience shows that a diversity of interests combined with the ability to work hard can take an individual far in international development.



NIKKI SHAFFEEULLAH

Nikki is currently a Master of Fine Arts Theatre Practice candidate at the University of Alberta where she is exploring how theatre can function as a feminist and decolonial practice for racialized women. She previously held a CIDA internship that allowed her to work with the Atlantic Council for International Cooperation (ACIC) in Halifax and Asociación Kallpa in Iquitos, Peru. The CIDA internship allowed Nikki to explore the effectiveness of arts-based development projects. It has also brought Nikki to contemplate many of the different facets of international cooperation, including how to conduct international cooperation in ways that empower local activism.

Nikki's passion for local activism, migrant justice, and gender equality led to her taking a lead in *Under One Sky*, a theatre project for older, recently-immigrated, Somali women living in Edmonton. The project used the arts to explore, create, and share stories about their lives, families, and migration experiences. Currently, Nikki is facilitating a long-term theatre project called *Staging Diversity* at the U of A's Arts-Based Research Studio. This project uses methods such as Theatre of the Oppressed to explore how local communities can work against patriarchy, heteronormativity, Eurocentricism, and racism in their everyday lives. *Staging Diversity* consists of several open workshops where community members can join the participants in their theatre-based explorations of gender and race, and will culminate in the spring of 2013 with the presentation of an original, collectively-created play.

Nikki was recently appointed the new Editor-in-Chief of the activist performing arts journal, *alt.theatre: cultural diversity and the stage*. As one of her first major projects in this post, she is developing a special issue dedicated to exploring gender and theatre at the margins. This issue will give voice to women, transgender people, and gender-non-conforming people who are creating politically engaged, culturally diverse, and alternative art.

Nikki's work with racialized women and girls is helping them name and share their stories and experiences, among themselves and with the wider community. This process and the resultant theatre work, educates and empowers both the participants and the audience. Her work is making a significant difference to under-served and under-represented women.

“ I BELIEVE SELF-EDUCATION IS THE FIRST AND BIGGEST STEP IN GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP. I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO LOCATE ONESELF IN THE WORLD AND ASK TO CONSTANTLY ASK: HOW ARE OPPRESSION AND PRIVILEGE LINKED? ”

16

“WE ALL HAVE SOMETHING TO TEACH AND LEARN FROM EACH OTHER. ACCEPTING THIS AND WORKING TOGETHER AS A GLOBAL COMMUNITY WE CAN ATTAIN BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR ALL.”

NIKKI WEBB

Nikki is an 'Artist,' part activist and part artist. As a poet, visual artist, and theatre practitioner, she believes in the potential of art to change lives, communities and society. It was through the innovative iHuman program that Nikki discovered her passion of working in community-oriented projects. iHuman allows high risk youth to collaborate together and teach social service providers how to work with marginalized youth using forum theatre.

Her work with iHuman inspired Nikki to seek out other opportunities that could be filled through activism. She quickly found Artists 4 Life (Artists and Activists), an NGO based in Uganda. She uses Skype as a way of interacting with youth in Uganda and discussing the common problems that youth in both countries face. She also sells and repairs chokoloo, earrings and other jewellery made from recycled materials by activist youth in Uganda. Closer to home, Nikki is also involved with Uncensored, the iHuman youth society and is a Next Up Edmonton alumnus and coach.

Nikki's interests in international development are many and varied, with an emphasis on poverty, harm reduction, gender and LGBTQ issues.

Like any true revolutionary, Nikki dedicates nearly

all of her free time towards effecting change in her community. Her passion for activism allows her to focus all of her energies on making herself a better artist and therefore, activist. She takes intensive forum/image theatre training project and regularly participates in a monologue sessions entitled The Coming Out Monologues. She actively works with at-risk youth, steering them towards healthy pursuits in theatre and the arts. Realizing the importance of expanding

her knowledge, Nikki also frequents training sessions in Edmonton, recently attending an ACGC workshop led by the Yes Men on how to engage yourself and others in social justice and environmental issues. A keen attentiveness towards gender issues have led Nikki to note that many of these organizations could use more girls in their ranks.



A photograph of Patrick Miller, a young man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a dark blazer over a blue button-down shirt. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a panoramic view of a city skyline at dusk or dawn, with snow on the rooftops of residential buildings in the foreground. The sky is a mix of blue and orange.

“ YOUTH NEED NOT BE BYSTANDERS WAITING TO INHERIT THE FUTURE, THEY CAN BUILD IT TODAY. IN FACT, WORLD-SHAPING TRENDS BECKON THEM TO DO SO! ”

18

PATRICK MILLER

Patrick is a leader and active participant in Engineers Without Borders (EWB), an organization that invests in people to incubate systemic innovations that will accelerate development in rural Africa. Through Patrick's undergraduate and graduate career he has served in Zambia, as EWB University of Calgary Chapter President, team and regional leader in EWB's Advocacy and Global Engineering initiatives. Patrick was also a key member in EWB Canada's overall vision update (2011-2012) and is currently a co-chair of EWB's National Conference 2013, Canada's largest international development conference. He also led the development of a two year strategy for the certification of the University of Calgary as a Fair Trade University. As a direct result of his planning and efforts, the University of Calgary is on the cusp of gaining its status as a Fair Trade University.

Time and time again, Patrick is inspired by the depth of dedication, heartfelt humility, and insightful

critical thought borne by every EWBer he has had the pleasure of working with. While EWB has an innovative portfolio of ventures in Africa, led discussions on aid policy that the government of Canada has adopted, and invested in hundreds of young Canadian leaders, Patrick is most inspired by their annual failure report. This report contains failures and lessons learned from leaders with the organization that are shared in the spirit of humility to foster learning. In Patrick's experience, failure happens in development work, and a fear of discussing and learning from it stifles innovation and hinders the change we all want to see from happening. Patrick is constantly inspired by the novel and effective approaches that EWB uses when faced with challenges and strives to emulate these innovative responses in his own work.

Patrick's future goals involve combining his love of development with his soon-to-be completed Master's degree in transport planning, which focuses

on exploring the role of transport planning in sustainable urbanization. He plans to use his degree by working in rapidly urbanizing cities to find innovative sustainable solutions to transportation challenges. Keen to develop all aspects of his personality, Patrick is a consummate traveler, lover of languages, engaging writer, and active guitarist.



“WITNESSING THE EXCITEMENT OF CHILDREN RECEIVING THEIR SCHOOL UNIFORMS AND ACCOMPANYING THEM ON THEIR FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL ARE POIGNANT MOMENTS THAT REINFORCE HOW CRUCIAL EDUCATION IS FOR YOUTH ALL OVER THE WORLD.”

RAJVIR GILL

19

In 2011, Rajvir Gill joined ACT Alberta, a community-based organization responding to the needs of victims of human trafficking. Raj encompasses multiple roles at ACT, including inspiring volunteers, mentoring students, strategizing to support the growth of the organization, and developing projects and programs. She has educated thousands of youth on human trafficking, including at the first International Day of the Girl Child, and coordinated a groundbreaking video on preventing child trafficking. She is most proud of her time spent as a volunteer for Streetlight Philippines where she was involved with fundraising initiatives for its Study and Development Centre. With her own eyes, she saw the benefits children in the program received: access to education, after-school tutoring, and family support programs.

Raj has a history of working on human rights issues, both here and abroad. She has worked and studied in Sweden, Romania, Singapore, Philippines,

Austria, France and Canada on issues such as the rights of street children, commercial surrogacy and child survivors of sexual abuse. Whenever she speaks, she actively makes a difference in the lives of girls and women.

Raj also volunteers with the Indo-Canadian Women's Association on a leadership program to build the self-esteem of young women and girls in South Asian, Middle Eastern and African communities by helping them recognize and celebrate their values, roles, and potential as women. The program also promotes a sense of sisterhood and solidarity through peer mentoring. She has also participated in their online campaign to end gender violence.

As a first-generation Canadian, Raj has lived between two cultures, exposing her to different parts of the world and the disparities between them. Specifically, it was on trips with her father to India that she learned first-hand that education and immigration

completely determined the course of her life. Seeing girls her age living in poverty has inspired her to be part of the solution to the challenges that those less fortunate than her face.

Throughout her work, Raj maintains a professional and positive attitude. She approaches complex problems with creativity and readily identifies possibilities for growth and collaboration. Moreover, Raj inspires and motivates those she works with to do the same.



ROSS ANDERSON

20

“ IF YOU SEE SOMETHING THAT ISN'T RIGHT, FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IT & FIX IT. YOU WILL MEET OTHERS WHO FEEL THE SAME WAY AND SOMETIMES PEOPLE WILL FOLLOW YOUR LEAD. ”

Ross' interest in international development started in his Grade 12 year at Strathcona High School in Edmonton. One of his courses, Leadership 35, runs a Global Initiative every year. The initiative recently raised just over \$50,000 for Kiva, an organization that facilitates microloans all over the world. Ross was particularly inspired by the fact that a simple concept with a straight-forward execution is creating long-term positive impact in the world. Ross' experience

with Kiva showed him the importance of creating a narrative to accompany development work. When donors see the projects and people, rather than just statistics, they are more willing and happy to help.

Never one to let a learning opportunity pass, Kiva's straightforward website has motivated Ross to busy himself in the intricacies of web development. He understands the value that is provided by a clean, clear interface that facilitates communication between lenders and borrowers. Already having created several websites, Ross aims to be able to create high-quality interaction between Canadian organizations and Canadians who want to assist international development.

As part of the 2012 ACGC Change Your World Youth Leadership Tour to Peru, Ross had the opportunity to learn about how small Alberta-based NGOs (like Sombrilla) can have lasting impacts on commu-

nities in developing countries. Ross is a firm believer that storytelling is one of the most important ways to motivate others to act, and has shared his experience in Peru with more than 1000 students across the province.

Ross is currently in the middle of his first year in the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Alberta. All around him, he sees opportunities to unite his education with his love of development work. Ross sees no reason why more youth can't become involved in activism and community work. In his opinion, the more focus there is on an issue, the more innovative and effective the solutions will be.

SABRINA ATWAL

The child of parents who immigrated to Canada in the 1980s, Sabrina has first-hand knowledge of both the challenges that immigrant families face and the privilege that Canada offers to those living here. Women and youth living in two different cultures can easily feel disengaged and disempowered if they lack a strong identity. Taking this knowledge, Sabrina passionately works to improve conditions for women in immigrant communities in Edmonton. As a Project Director at the Indo-Canadian Women's Association, Sabrina has spearheaded a community initiative aimed at preventing violence against women in immigrant communities by creating leadership opportunities and helping to ensure access to basic services. Other programs that Sabrina has brought to life include an anti-violence photo campaign, youth community theatre, and community meetings. Sabrina is the youngest Project Director ever at the Indo-Canadian Women's Association.

Sabrina is an advocate for gender equality issues in Alberta. Even though her work is focused on working with diverse immigrant communities, as an Albertan she is disturbed to know that Alberta has the highest wage gap in Canada, and also one of the highest rates of spousal violence. She aims to work to change some of the harmful and negative attitudes about women, especially since she sees these as one of the major factors as to why women are treated unjustly and face discrimination, abuse, and violence. The challenges that Alberta faces create an ideal situation for young girls to stand up and have a voice in their communities. The first step is to get out and find out what the challenges are in your own community.

Sabrina's vision for a sustainable, equitable future is one where women are truly treated as equals; nothing can be sustainable while half the world's population is discriminated against. Only through acknowledging the discrimination that women face on a daily basis can we eliminate it. Sabrina feels that violence against women is the most socially accepted human rights violation and she looks forward to a day when this is no longer true.



“ I AM VERY PROUD THAT MANY YOUNG GIRLS FROM THE INDO-CANADIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION ARE NOW INVOLVED WITH SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES AND WANT TO BE ACTIVE AGENTS OF SOCIAL CHANGE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.”

”



SAIMA BUTT

A first-generation Canadian, Saima Butt is an Edmonton-based activist and currently the Working Group and Programming Coordinator at Alberta Public Interest Research Group (APIRG) at the University of Alberta. She is a passionate volunteer and organizer for such causes as First Nations treaty rights, women's and girls' rights, movements against sexual violence, and immigration challenges, among others. Membership in two communities allows Saima to appreciate the complexities of intersecting identities that accompany immigration to Canada.

One of the more formative groups in the development of Saima's interest in development was the University of Alberta's Rights and Democracy chapter. Through Rights and Democracy, an organization dedicated to human rights and democratic development, Saima had the opportunity to attend the International Tribunal on Crimes Against Women of Burma, as well as the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York City. This really pushed Saima to start thinking critically about international development and the challenges women face both globally and locally. One of her first acts after this was to organize the Panties for Peace campaign in Edmonton, an initiative started by women in Burma that uses both cultural context and humour to educate and advocate for Burmese women. In this way, she is supporting sustainability in her development work rather than relying on the charity of others.

Determined to focus on Canada as well as other countries, Saima uses her intelligence and passion to raise awareness about Canada's role abroad. She works on issues related to the environmental impacts of mining and development, in particular the links between Canadian extraction companies and the human rights abuses that follow. Following along the same theme, Saima also looks at the struggles around resource extraction and development rights in Canada.

Striving to redefine the paradigm that we live in, Saima continually works to further her own decolonization process. She is passionate about doing anti-racist and migrant justice work while recognizing the complexities of living on colonized land. Saima believes that being a global citizen means thinking about the ways the current world and its histories are interconnected and impact everyone, while thinking critically about one's privilege and place in the world.

“**THERE ARE MANY WAYS FOR YOUTH TO GET INVOLVED. HEAD TO THE LIBRARY AND FIND BOOKS ON TOPICS THAT INTEREST YOU. JOIN A GROUP AND GET INVOLVED. VOLUNTEER.**

IT'S UP TO YOU.

22

“YOUTH HAVE A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE TO OFFER AS WELL AS LOTS OF OPTIMISM AND ENERGY! MOST YOUTH DON'T EVEN REALIZE ALL THE GREAT THINGS THEY HAVE TO OFFER. GETTING INVOLVED IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN AND GROW AS A PERSON.”

SARAH WINSTANLEY

Sarah's introduction to global issues came in the form of a first year Women's Studies course at university. After reading and learning about the historical exploitation and oppression perpetrated by colonial systems, she began to make the connection between poverty and the legacy of the past. She was infuriated to learn that it is often girls and women facing the most challenging obstacles to social justice: violence, lack of education, and discrimination. Doing her part in Canada, Sarah is the Girl Power Coordinator for the Women's Centre of Calgary where she coordinates and facilitates Girl Power summer camps. These camps, offered free-of-charge, provide unique opportunities for girls in Calgary to connect with each other in a community environment and learn about empowerment, gender roles, self-esteem, healthy relationships, and body image.

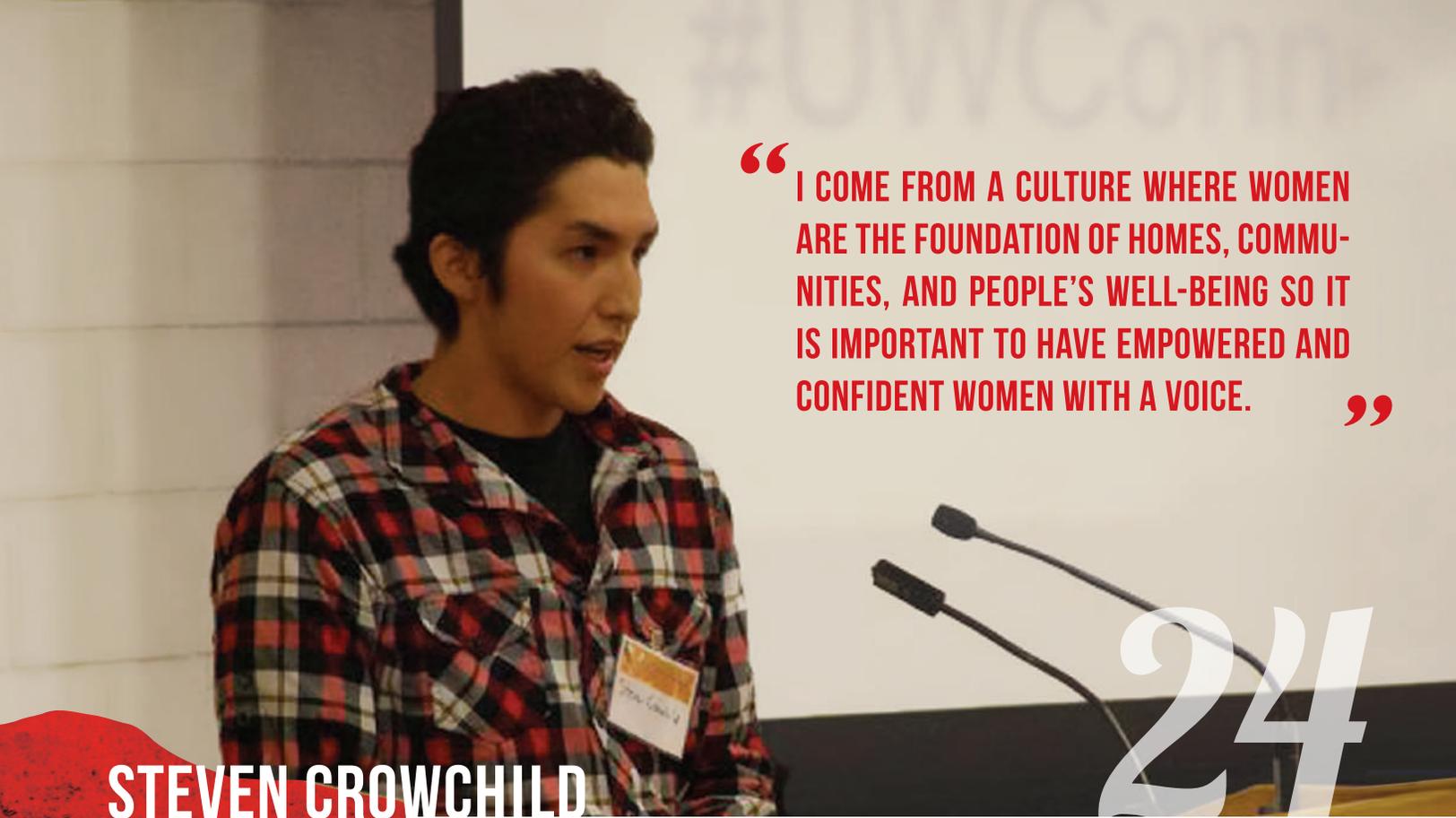
Sarah began to develop her international cre-

dentials in March 2012 when she went to Belize to work at Ocean Academy, a non-profit high school on the island of Caye Caulker. Working with a full-time teacher, Sarah prepared and led workshops about HIV/AIDS prevention, healthy sexuality, domestic violence, and healthy relationships. She also served as a mentor for the Female Leadership Community, a weekly discussion group of 8 girls who talk through various challenges facing themselves and their peers. In addition, Sarah works with Oxfam's GROW campaign. GROW seeks to raise awareness and lobby government bodies on issues related to the food system.

Sarah's main focus in international development is on the closely-related issues of violence prevention and healthy-relationship education for youth, which requires attention be paid to gender equality. Often gender stereotypes serve as justification for violence against women and only with the increased aware-

ness can they be countered. Even though her passion is working with girls, Sarah recognizes the importance of a holistic approach; a girl cannot have a healthy relationship unless her partner is invested too. Supporting non-violent relationships not only benefits individuals, but society as a whole. She loves working with youth because of the potential for them to build their own healthy futures and positively impact their communities.





“ I COME FROM A CULTURE WHERE WOMEN ARE THE FOUNDATION OF HOMES, COMMUNITIES, AND PEOPLE’S WELL-BEING SO IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE EMPOWERED AND CONFIDENT WOMEN WITH A VOICE. ”

24

STEVEN CROWCHILD

Steven is a dynamic, conscientious young man who takes the initiative to stand up for what he believes in. He was instrumental in informing students and community members about the government’s passing of Bill C-45, the omnibus budget bill. He was a forerunner in assisting with the organization of the Peaceful Protest to Harper’s Constituency Office in Calgary and the Stop the Bill letter campaign that circled Canada.

In 2010, Steven visited Ethiopia as part of ACGC’s Change the World Youth Leadership Tour. His group toured the country and had the opportunity to engage in meaningful conversation with locals. Through conversation, the links between the exploitation of Ethiopians and indigenous peoples in Canada became clear. In both cases, the exploitation of resources for profit was eroding traditional ways of life.

Steven’s actions often originate from his vision of

the future. He constantly strives for his vision of an equitable, sustainable future, one in which greed and the pursuit of money do not destroy the environment and trample the rights of people. He believes that this can only be achieved through a true democracy where people have a real and meaningful say in the world around them. As a result, he works towards effecting social change that is environmentally sustainable. After all, without clean air to breathe, water to drink, and land to walk on, we have nothing at all. All this stems back to the indigenous belief and law that an individual must care for the earth to ensure that the next seven generations have a viable future.

Linked to his love of development work, Steven is a lover of languages. As a member of the Tsuu T’ina Nation, Steven is currently the Coordinator of the Gunaha Language Institute. The Gunaha Language Institute works to bring the Tsuu T’ina language to

all members of the Nation. This helps to preserve and enhance the culture within the Nation. On a larger level, the diversity and depth of languages and their functionality never ceases to amaze Steven while he is studying linguistics.

TARYN MEYERS

Taryn Meyers currently works for the Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST). As an engineering student, Taryn combines her technical skills with her love of teaching and development to train individuals on the importance of clean drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). She also trains and mentors individuals in grassroots organizations to become competent and effective trainers to further assist their communities in simple WASH solutions. Her knowledge allows her to bring technical skills (water treatment, latrines, well hand-pump repair), educational theory, and training techniques to local communities wherever she goes. Finally, Taryn also helps organizations develop their own training curriculum to further aid the spread of WASH principles. Across all her work, Taryn focuses on making the training and curriculum accessible to women, particularly those with low literacy. She believes that when women have the knowledge and skills to improve their water and health, they make a difference in their own lives and that of their children. Her passion and knowledge have brought her to Zambia, Ethiopia, Laos and Nepal.

Over the past three years Taryn has witnessed the transformation of the people—particularly women—with whom she works. Trainers have become more effective in their community work and women have become leaders in their communities. One particular inspiration to Taryn is Gladys, a single mother with 3 children in Zambia. After a two-year transformation from being a shy, apprehensive trainer, Gladys confidently accompanied Taryn to lead a three-week workshop in Ethiopia on effective training skills and WASH curriculum development in 2012. The work Taryn does not only contributes to the development of water, sanitation and hygiene, but empowers those she works with to do the same and change their own lives.

Taryn stumbled upon her passion for international development and water accessibility almost by accident. A love of math brought her to the University of Western Ontario to study engineering, but she found the subject matter lacking because it did not incorporate her passion for people and creativity. After hearing that the Dean of Civil Engineering was thinking of creating an International Development Specialization, Taryn spoke to him about the possibilities that she saw for herself in the program. She enrolled and became the program's first female graduate.

“**START BY READING; LEARN ABOUT THE WORLD AND WHAT'S HAPPENING IN IT. TALK ABOUT GLOBAL ISSUES, SHARE WHAT YOU LEARN AND ASK QUESTIONS. GO TRAVELLING. FIND A CAUSE THAT INSPIRES YOU AND BRINGS OUT YOUR PASSION. VOLUNTEER. FIND INTERNSHIPS.**”



“AN EQUITABLE, SUSTAINABLE FUTURE IS ONE WHERE THE DEFINITION OF SUCH WORDS WILL NOT BE DETERMINED BY AGENDAS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH, BUT WHERE THEY ARE DECIDED WITH THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE END OF OPPRESSION IN MIND.”

TIF MCNAUGHTON

Tif's first introduction to international affairs was innocuous enough, simply reading National Geographic at her grandparents' house. Other people found it amazing that she would immerse herself in articles about war, extreme poverty, and environmental destruction. Girl Guides of Canada also played a formative role in Tif's life, helping to connect her developing knowledge with her own actions in society. Her first steps abroad included participating in the Canada World Youth Rural Development Exchange in 2004/2005. This exchange provided her with an incredible learning experience and the ability to create connections with like-minded youth from Canada and Mexico.

Currently Tif works as the Executive Director for the Camrose NGO Sahakarini, focusing on the advancement of women and girls around the globe. She is largely responsible for the coordination of projects,

reporting to supporters and funders, and ensuring the organization runs efficiently. Sahakarini has benefited hugely from Tif's efforts; her ability to effectively network and raise awareness in communities as diverse as women's and girls' groups, the University of Calgary Augustana Campus, Girl Guides of Canada, and TUXIS (the Alberta Youth Parliament) have proved invaluable for the NGO. She takes particular pride in the work that she does in Camrose from developing her ability to write efficient grant proposals to hosting a film and speaker series highlighting the experiences of women in the Global South. It is through this that Tif has learned the amount and importance of the behind-the-scenes work that goes into international development work.

Tif is currently very interested in the effects that the current distribution of power and wealth have on people. Sahakarini's partners, especially the CCDO

in India, have demonstrated that the genuine inclusion of women and the promotion of self-advocacy is a good way to minimize the negative effects of a power structure that is weighted against marginalized people.

Even with all of her commitments in the NGO world, Tif is currently studying Diaconal Ministry with the Centre for Christian Studies in Winnipeg. She enjoys being outside, studying gardening and fibre arts, especially wet-felting, needle-felting, and knitting.

TONY ZELAYA LOPEZ

Tony Zelaya Lopez was only 12 years old when he left his Miskito indigenous jungle community of Tuburus in the BOSAWAS Biosphere Reserve in Northern Nicaragua to travel to Managua to continue his schooling. He arrived in the city with the dream to complete his high school education – a dream that remains unlikely for most Miskito children, who grow up in a marginalized region with little access to secondary education. Before Alberta based NGO Change for Children began building secondary schools in the area, only a handful of students were able to continue education beyond grade 6; Today there are less than 20 Miskito students with University degrees from a population of over 10,000 in the now self-governed region. Attending school in Managua, Tony faced culture shock, discrimination from his classmates, and had to study extra hard to keep up in Spanish – a language second to his native tongue of Miskito. But his dream to succeed has always been greater than the odds against him. Over the last five years, Tony has not only gained the respect of his classmates, but he's achieved the 'Top Student' award at his high school in the municipality of El Crucero – three years in a row! Now 17 years old, Tony is in grade twelve and will graduate from high school in December 2013. In 2014 he wants to begin his studies in civil engineering. In September 2012, Tony toured Alberta schools with Change for Children sharing his story of struggle and triumph with over 3000 students. He longs to become one of the handful of his people with a University education and to use this education to help his people advance, govern themselves and become more self-reliant.

“ EDUCATION & INVOLVEMENT WITH CHANGE FOR CHILDREN HAS ALLOWED ME TO DREAM BIG. I'M CURRENTLY STRIVING TO REACH GOALS FAR HIGHER THAN ANYTHING I THOUGHT POSSIBLE THREE YEARS AGO. ”





“ I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT CHANGES AT HOME CAN FOSTER POSITIVE SUSTAINABLE CHANGE AROUND THE WORLD. NOT EVERYONE’S LIFE IS FAIR BUT EVERYONE DESERVES A FAIR CHANCE AT LIFE. ”

28

VANESSA KOHUT

Vanessa’s charisma enables her to connect with people from all walks of life and has led her to pursue meaningful relationships with a diversity of local organizations. She sits on the board of Sombrilla, a small NGO, and also volunteers as the coordinator for Just Christmas, an Edmonton-based NGO that organizes a Christmas bazaar to sell fair-trade goods.

Since Sombrilla has no staff, the board needs to be very active in running the organization. Vanessa puts many volunteer hours into Sombrilla, heading the Project Committee, helping to craft policy, and representing Sombrilla at events. Vanessa’s knowledge about development has been tremendously valuable to the organization and her willingness to jump in and give her time and energy has helped to strengthen Sombrilla significantly.

As coordinator of Just Christmas, Vanessa is ultimately responsible for all the logistics of putting on an annual two-day event. She works with a small

steering committee to help find, organize, and coordinate the approximately 40 groups who participate in Just Christmas. Over 2000 people attend the event, which requires organizing food and entertainment as well as meeting the needs of a diverse group of participants. Through her hard work and dedication, Vanessa has made Just Christmas a success for two years running.

Vanessa feels that it is local efforts that drive global progress. As Canadians, she believes we have the opportunity to lead by example through the creation of a society that espouses the values of universal human rights and equality for all. Vanessa thinks each of us can work towards this goal by establishing the foundations for a more positive local community.

Vanessa strongly believes in the importance of exposing oneself to different cultures as a way to get involved in international development. Growing up overseas has motivated Vanessa to get involved glob-

ally. She notes that in today’s interconnected world, there are many ways to start one’s career in international development. In particular, she directs people to their school’s semester abroad program, a great way to both help others and educate oneself.

YENI CRISTABEL LOPEZ TOVAR

Yeni is one of the computer technicians and teaching staff at Centro de Enseñanza Fraternidad in Santa Cruz de Yojoa, Honduras. The school provides Computer Assisted Learning to nearly 400 poor students in Santa Cruz and in villages surrounding the city. In the main centre, more than 100 students study each day in several shifts.

Yeni's work includes creating computer programs, materials and curricula for the Junior High program as well as record keeping and assisting students as they study. In addition, she is in charge of a Botiquín program which supplies basic medicines to small community dispensaries. She is also training to be the development presenter for seminars with community groups with a focus on topics of nutrition from local plant sources, water purification, hay basket cooking and fuel efficient stoves.

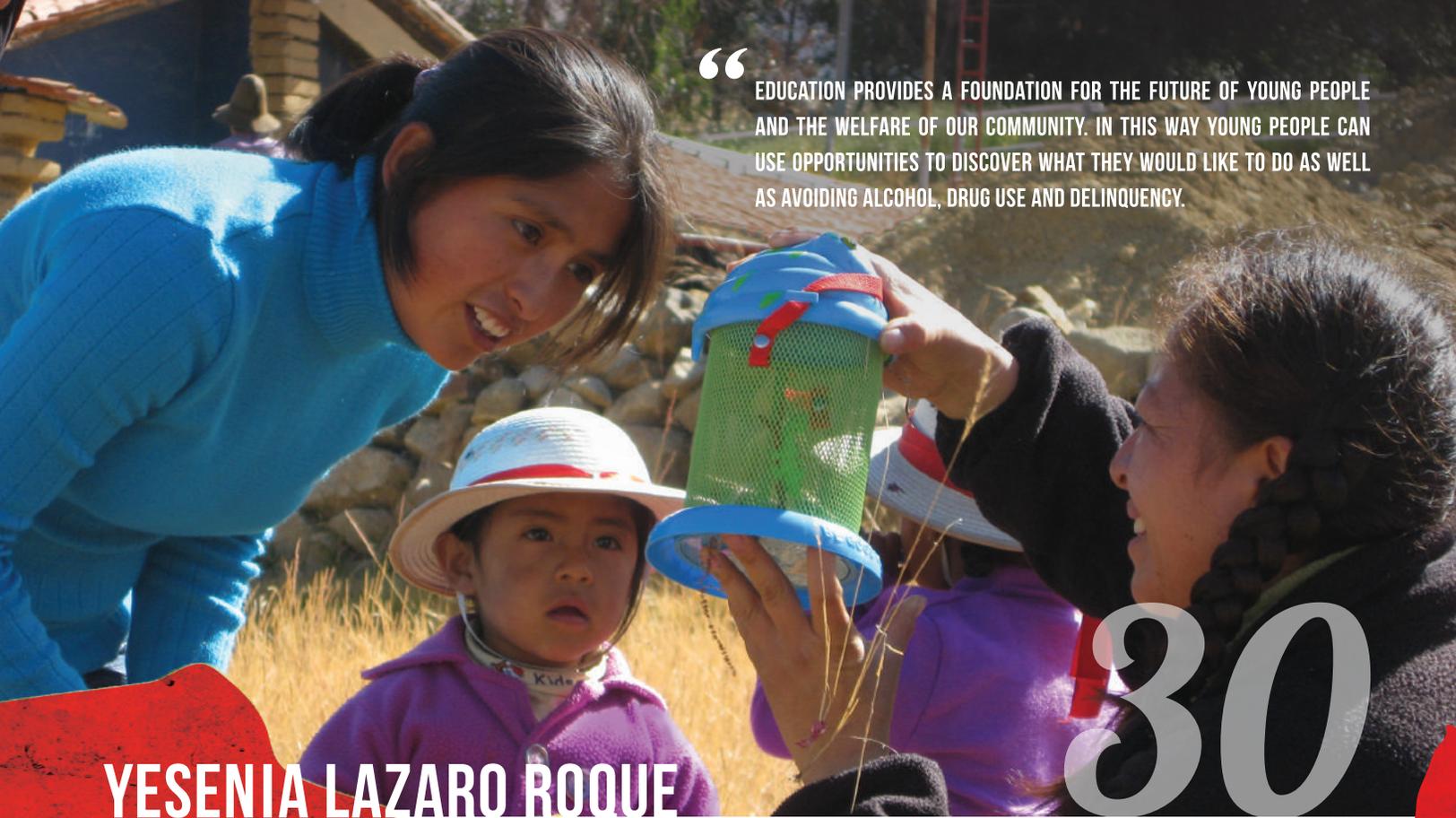
A single mother herself, Yeni demonstrates to the 60%-female student body the potential that education offers. She is able to apply her high school training in computers and demonstrates the importance of continuing education and an attitude of life-long learning. By acting as a role model, Yeni provides a path to success for other women and girls to follow.

Yeni is a wonderful example of how a motivated young woman can make a difference to her family and her community. Without knowing it, her efforts are also reaching to other countries as Canadian Peacemakers International's program is attracting attention from other countries needing this approach to solving education needs.



“THE HARD WORK THAT YOUTH, IN PARTICULAR GIRLS, ARE DOING CREATES OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES. ONLY BY INVOLVING EVERY MEMBER OF A SOCIETY CAN WE TRULY UNLOCK OUR COLLECTIVE POTENTIAL.

”



“

EDUCATION PROVIDES A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WELFARE OF OUR COMMUNITY. IN THIS WAY YOUNG PEOPLE CAN USE OPPORTUNITIES TO DISCOVER WHAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO DO AS WELL AS AVOIDING ALCOHOL, DRUG USE AND DELINQUENCY.

YESENIA LAZARO ROQUE

30

For the past three years, Yesenia has worked for the Andean Alliance and Sombrilla in preschool and community programming. She originally approached the Andean Alliance looking for some help in getting into some English classes and training to become a tour guide in the mountainous region of Peru in which she lives. Unfortunately, at that time, the Andean Alliance had no programs available but suggested that Yesenia become involved in the community. Yesenia gladly stepped forward and took on the challenge with huge enthusiasm in spite of her being nervous with the new and daunting tasks she would be faced with.

Yesenia works five mornings a week in the community preschool and goes once a week to help out in the public school in Rivas where she lives. Yesenia teaches a weekly computer class to the local women who come with their babies and small children. This is a hugely challenging job since Yesenia is introduc-

ing women in the community to computers for the first time. Yesenia is now training two younger women, teaching them how to work in the library and computer area. On top of all this, Yesenia has kept up her study of English, traveling to the city of Huaraz every weekday to attend classes there.

Yesenia is very excited about many different aspects of international development including educational development, hygiene, water use, ecological protection, and ecological development. She hopes to utilize her diverse set of interests as a guide, educating visitors about the environmental beauty and cultural richness of her local community. Yesenia plans to share her knowledge by educating younger generations in community development and tourism.

Yesenia was one of the Peruvian youth who participated in the *Change Your World Youth Leadership Tour* last summer. She was a leader for the Peruvian

group and worked very hard to connect with the Alberta youth and to make them feel comfortable. In every situation, Yesenia is a role model in her community, especially for the women and girls, who tend to stay in the background. Her direct work with the women and girls in the community is an inspiration to them and demonstrates that women can participate fully in community life.

honourable MENTIONS

ALISON COLE

Ali works as an interpreter for Alberta Parks, interacting with families of new Canadians. She is an excellent communicator and role model for the young girls in her programs and constantly strives to create news ideas to engage new Canadians and involve them in the life of the park. She is friendly, out-going, and approachable and strives to make new-comers to Canada very welcome in both parks and Canada in general.

Her innate abilities led her to interact with a large Vietnamese church group holding mass on the Upper Kananaskis Lake. Approaching them during a mass, she engaged the entire group in conversation about Canada's parks and safety within them. She saw an opportunity to engage with a group of people that do not take advantage of the great wonders that Canada offers. Ali's efforts directly improve the quality of life for new Canadians.



CASSIDY ROBERTSON

Cassidy's involvement with the Sierra Club began when she was a summer student with the Sierra Club Chinook Group. Her passion and enthusiasm for social change inspired her to attend a youth leadership conference in Halifax and volunteer for three weeks in India with Me to We. After her summer student position ended, Cassidy stayed with Sierra Club as volunteer. She was the key force behind the Sierra Club's strategic plan, she developed a communications plan, and is mentoring a new communications person who is five years older than Cassidy.

Inspired by her leadership training with Empowering Minds and her work with Sierra Club, Cassidy founded Club.One.Twenty in her school, the objective of which is to empower students to be the change they wish to see. This is an example of Cassidy's driven personality; in this case, Cassidy felt that Club.One.Twenty addressed a need in the school. Instead of sitting back and waiting, Cassidy pro-actively went out and solved a problem—a key component of development work.



CASSANDRA KLUNE

Cassie exhibits a deep sense of empathy on issues related to poverty, human rights, and the environment. In her semester long project to raise awareness on a Millennium Development Goal, she surpassed expectations by raising not only awareness, but also money. Her efforts included raising \$300 from a bake sale, fundraising to purchase presents from World Vision's Christmas catalogue, and painting a picture that was auctioned off to support World Vision.

Cassie is an active member of Father Lacombe High School's Social Justice Club, actively working to fundraise for those affected by famine in the Horn of Africa. She has participated in campaigns including an Oath of Silence and 30-Hour Famine. Cassie was also nominated by a teacher to spearhead an annual 5 km Run for Justice/Walk for Water, raising over \$3000. Knowing that poverty exists in her community, Cassie assists in the preparation of a weekly free breakfast and organizing Christmas hampers for those who are not as fortunate.



I am making a difference. WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

READ

Visit your local library to find books that explore issues of social justice and human rights. Reading can not only make us better individuals but it can also motivate us to effect greater changes around us.

INFORMATION POWER

Connect with mainstream media to learn about local, national and international issues. Find alternative media sources that offer a different perspective on those issues, and critically analyze the information that is being presented by both sides. Remember that all media has bias.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Use social media to stay in touch with political figures, community leaders and groups, and also to engage with them directly. It's an easy and excellent platform to share your thoughts, ideas and concerns. Don't be shy – what you have to say is important.

VOTE

Have a voice and make a choice. Voting is a citizen's right and responsibility to be a part of influencing decisions that are made at every political level.

STORYTELLING

Invite people with lived experience to share their stories with you. This may help you better understand the issues and what your role can be. And don't forget – you have a story too so share it with others. You'll learn more about the world around you, and the people that surround you.

PEOPLE POWER

What are you passionate about? Talk about the issues and brainstorm innovative ways to be a part of the change. Talk to your family and friends, join or start a group with like-minded people, ask questions, and start the conversation.

BUILD NETWORKS

Tap into the existing networks in your community and build alliances with individuals, communities, groups and organizations. Join a board of directors, attend community events, or share your skills. Whether you're good with computers, art, music, editing, mobilizing and recruiting others or organizing logistics, there's a group that could put your skills to good use!

ACTIVISM

Be an engaged and global citizen by expressing your ideas and concerns about what is happening in your local and global world. Write letters to your MP or MLA to express your concerns for (or to vocalize your support for) a particular issue. Write a Letter to the Editor of your local or national newspaper. Take part in a rally or a protest. Joining forces with others an incredibly impactful way of being heard.

PRACTICE ETHICAL & INFORMED CONSUMPTION

Inform yourself about the products, goods and services you use, and the impact they have on the planet and also on others. Before consuming, ask yourself "do I need this?" and "do I know enough about this to determine whether I'm making an ethical choice?"

HOW *you* CAN BE A GLOBAL CITIZEN...

VOLUNTEER

Donate your time, donate money or donate your skills. Do some research and find out which organizations match your interests and value set, then give them a call! Many organizations are looking for committed and engaged volunteers.

ARE YOU STUDENT? RECENT GRADUATE? ADULT? RETIREE?

Visit the Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) website at www.cida.gc.ca. CIDA has great information and opportunities available for people of all ages who are interested in international development

And while on the CIDA website, why not consider sharing your development experience as part of the *I am Making a Difference* campaign?

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & RESOURCES

Check out the ACGC website for information about the 70+ organizations in Alberta working towards sustainable human development as well as for more resources on how to get involved at www.acgc.ca



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**30 YOUTH FROM ALBERTA & AROUND THE GLOBE
WHO ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD**

