



## Welcome aboard!

In the past few months, Canada World Youth's Board of Directors has welcomed several new members.

- **Jocelyne Bourgon** is the President of the Canadian Centre for Management Development. She was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2001 for her outstanding contributions to the Public Service of Canada. Among the many positions she held, she was Clerk of the Privy Council from 1994 to 1999.
- **Anne Leahy** has served as a Canadian ambassador in Eastern Europe (Poland, Russia, Armenia, Uzbekistan, Belarus) and Africa (Cameroon, Chad and Central African Republic). She is currently coordinator for federal support to World Youth Day 2002 in Toronto.
- **Claude Lemay** is President and Chief Executive Officer of Alis Technologies Inc. A lawyer by profession, Claude has extensive experience in the high-tech sector and in fundraising.
- **Roger Samson** has had a varied career in business administration, specifically in marketing and sales, and he currently divides his time between being an investment adviser and sitting on the boards of various corporations and charitable organizations.
- **Alexandre Trudeau** is a film-maker with a great deal of international experience. The son of former prime minister Pierre Trudeau, he is a strong supporter of youth initiatives.

## Website survey

We need your help! To find out whether our website is meeting your needs, we've developed a brief online survey to get your feedback. To fill it out, please visit our website at [www.cwy-jcm.org](http://www.cwy-jcm.org), go to the home page and click on SURVEY. It only takes a few minutes to complete, and you could win a gift for participating.

## New countries, new partners

*Canada World Youth is embarking on several new initiatives this year that will bring us into new countries with innovative programs.*

### Canada-Mongolia Child Protection Project

This project will offer youth from Canada and Mongolia work experience in the field of child protection and related youth issues. A team of 16 participants with a background or interest in the field of child protection (eight from Mongolia and eight from Canada) will spend three-and-a-half months in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, and an equal amount of time in Peterborough, Ontario, working on programs for street youth and other youth at risk. This project grew out of the Mongolian Youth Development Centre's expressed interest in developing international linkages with related organizations, and in building networks that will help develop the skills and expertise of its staff and volunteers.

### North American Community Service Initiative (NACS)

This pilot project involving Canada, the USA and Mexico was designed to raise awareness among North American youth and communities of shared cultural, environmental, social, political and economic challenges, and to increase their capacity to confront these challenges together. The three lead agencies include Canada World Youth, the Student Conservation Association (USA) and *Universidad Veracruzana* (Mexico) — in close collaboration with the North American Institute (USA), the Columbia Basin Trust (British Columbia) and Cornerstones Community Partnerships (USA). It's a six-month program, with nine participants spending two months in each of the three participating communities in Canada, the USA and Mexico.

### Youth Exchange Programs in China

For the first time, Canada World Youth will host three Youth Exchange Programs in China. The Chinese partners for the project are the Foreign Affairs Office of Yichang Municipal Government, the China Association for International Exchange of Personnel and the China Youth Center for International Personnel Exchanges. The program will follow the youth exchange model, with participants (27 from Canada and 27 from China) spending half the program (three-and-a-half months) in a community in Ontario or British Columbia, followed by an equal amount of time in a Chinese community. Participants will be integrating into their host communities by living with families and volunteering with local organizations.

## Letter from India ...

*(The following is an account by a participant in Cégep Marie-Victorin's International Program — a two-year program that combines students' studies in humanities with a three-month volunteer project in a developing country. The overseas phase is coordinated by Canada World Youth.)*

The overseas chapter of this adventure took place in the neighbouring villages of Dharamsala/McLeod Ganj in the mountains of Himachal Pradesh State. In this community of Tibetan refugees, we shared the lives, the culture and the religion of these hospitable and generous people.

We lived with families who treated us as members of their community. Lots of laughter, food preparation, playing, washing by hand — it seemed that these very mundane day-to-day events served as the vehicles that gave us genuine access to the richness of a culture very different from our own.

During this short visit, we discovered a wonderful world, even though most customs barely resemble those of Westerners. It is a place where everything has a *raison d'être* and where people demonstrate a surprising noble-mindedness. The Tibetans' lives are guided by Buddhism. They are a compassionate people and the hope of returning to a free country still beats strongly in their hearts. These people showed us the meaning of real perseverance and patriotism, and made us understand the influence and the importance of one's country and culture.

We also had the chance to work as volunteers in several institutions, which helped us develop new skills, kept us in contact with other people, and broadened our knowledge. In the workplace, we were able to observe another aspect of daily life up close, and we explored a variety of topics from the community's point of view: the environment, education, traditional medicine, history and religion.

The things we learned cannot be calculated in terms of percentages or marks. They are, in fact, reflected in the new behaviours and attitudes we have adopted and in our greater openness to differences. During this trip, each of us found elements that transformed us and that opened a window on the world.

Geneviève Lange

## Fundraising update

For the 2001-2002 fiscal year, all three components of our fundraising program — participant fundraising, co-funding and our annual campaign — showed impressive results, with the annual campaign's final tally at just over \$100,000. We want to extend our profound thanks to all of the individuals, foundations, corporations and other donors across Canada who generously supported our efforts.

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

## We want to be in touch...

If you know of a past participant who would like to get back in touch with Canada World Youth, encourage them to contact Brenda Whittaker at [bwhittaker@cwj-jcm.org](mailto:bwhittaker@cwj-jcm.org), or visit our website and leave a message in the alumni guest book. We're also attempting to gather e-mail addresses of all alumni in an effort to reduce mailing costs, so please send yours to [bwhittaker@cwj-jcm.org](mailto:bwhittaker@cwj-jcm.org). Thanks!

**Visit our online bulletin at  
[www.cwj-jcm.org](http://www.cwj-jcm.org)**

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Charitable registration number:  
11897 3999 RR0001  
Legal deposit: Bibliothèque nationale  
du Québec; National Library of  
Canada.

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Canada World Youth thanks the Canadian International Development Agency, as well as our generous donors, for their invaluable financial support.

