

Active Board Provides New Direction for the Council

THIS HAS BEEN ANOTHER productive year for OCIC's Board of Directors. We started off the new programming year with a spirited Annual General Meeting, at Windmill Line Co-op in Toronto, that allowed members to network and discuss joint initiatives. This AGM was the catalyst for the formation of the International Development Week (IDW) Planning Committee, which resulted in a dynamic list of IDW events for 2005.

In July, we planned and participated in our second annual Board retreat. For three days (of solid rain!) we holed up at the Echo Bay Retreat Centre and worked through a very packed agenda. The results were impressive, as we came away with an updated version of OCIC's strategic directions that we felt better reflected the goals of the council:

- To convene a community of members who actively advance the work of our members and the sector and actively collaborate on emerging issues.
- To promote opportunities for members to have a collective voice on relevant issues.
- To disseminate information and referrals about member organizations among members and to the public.
- To facilitate professional development opportunities that are responsive to members' needs.
- To promote its work to the membership.
- To strengthen its organizational capacity through diversified funding, effective management and good governance.

Throughout the year, Board members have provided support and guidance to the coordinator through mentoring and consul-

ation. The executive committee implemented the governance structure to the Board, providing support and leadership to the members. During the retreat, the membership committee devised a new strategy for membership renewal and followed up with each OCIC member to try to ensure that dues were paid within the fiscal year. The personnel committee was kept very busy with a variety of tasks including updating the personnel policy, staff evaluations, contract renewals and new hires. The finance committee and ways and means committee merged to become the sustainability committee which covered a myriad of tasks including drafting the new budget, developing a travel policy and a spending policy for the coordinator, preparing for the audit, and scoping out potential funding sources. The nominations committee ensured that the Board orientation binder was up to date, that new Board members received an orientation, and recruited new Board members. And last, but far from least, the programming committee worked to support and strategically guide the programming efforts of the council.

With the principles of adult education and environmental sustainability as a framework, the Board of Directors is working to ensure that equity and social jus-

tice are deeply embedded in our actions and practices as a council. It has been a pleasure contributing to OCIC's mandate with such a skilled and resourceful Board of Directors.

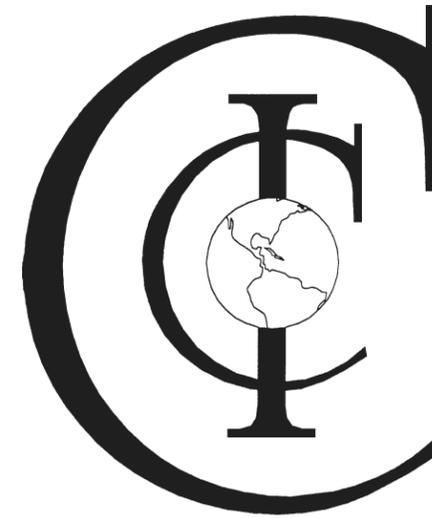
For 2005-06, I invite you to join the OCIC Board of Directors and to help us facilitate strong leadership and good governance within the sector.

Gwen Schauerte

President, OCIC Board of Directors



Some of OCIC's Board of Directors at the 2004 AGM.



Ontario Council
for International
Cooperation (OCIC)

ANNUAL REPORT 2004/2005

Ontario's Global Citizens: A Call for Action

IN REFLECTING ON 2004-05, there is no overlooking the final word of 2004. It came from deep beneath the Indian Ocean, forcing NGOs to snap out of holiday mode and jump into full-on emergency relief implementation. "Tsunami," until recently a relatively unused term in this part of the world, is now part of the vernacular of Canadian school children from kindergarten up. The tragic results of the tsunami forced us all to learn, not only about the earth, but also about our practices as NGOs and global citizens.

The Ontario Council for International Cooperation (OCIC) has spent the last two decades educating Canadians on the effects of global poverty, including its daily death toll of 50,000 children and adults – the equivalent of having a tsunami every two days. We do this with the hope that Canadians will take the lead in advocating for global justice. All too often the NGO members of OCIC find themselves preaching to a small group of the converted, and feeling decidedly underwhelmed by the Canadian government's overseas development assistance (ODA) allocation.

Ironically, the devastation of the tsunami brought about new hope for global citizenship. Unprecedented numbers of Canadians donated funds for tsunami relief and reflected on the dire economic conditions in the majority world. Here in multi-cultural/ethnic Toronto, we recognized ourselves as friends, family and neighbours of those in the global south and we saw that



Christine Alden of Pueblito Canada and Lori Ryan of Development and Peace at the OCIC 2004 Board Retreat, Echo Bay, Ontario.

a community is not bound by geography.

The concern and generosity of Canadians demonstrates that there could not be a better time for launching the Make Poverty History Campaign. This worldwide effort to end poverty rejects Band-Aid solutions and instead aims at the core of the inequities that feed global poverty, including unfair trading practices and crushing debt loads. Canada's part in the Make Poverty History campaign is led by the Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC) and is taken up by Canadian Crossroads International, Development and Peace, Engineers Without Borders and World Vision, among others. Canada's campaign includes the elimination of child poverty in Canada and requests that the government reach the UN (ODA) target of 0.7% of the Gross National Income by 2015. This campaign asks that all Canadians wear the white band in solidarity on specific dates in July, September and December to send a strong message to the Canadian government.

In 2005, the combination of international disasters, the bumpy first term with the minority federal government and the uncertainty around CIDA's NGO Project funding has provided more drama than we bargained for. It stands to reason that we should aim for an ending to 2005 that is reflective of our common goals.

Our work as a coalition is clearly defined this year – let's Make Poverty History.

Nadya Weber, Coordinator, OCIC

Ontario Council for International Cooperation



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OCIC Members

Canada World Youth • Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL) • Canadian Catholic Organization for Development & Peace • Canadian Crossroads International • Canadian Feed the Children • Canadian Friends Service Committee • Canadian Hunger Foundation • Canadian Journalists for Free Expression • Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief • Casa Canadiense • Catalyst Centre • Christian Children's Fund of Canada • Compassion Canada • CUSO Ontario • Farm Radio Network • Foster Parents' Plan • Frontiers Foundation • Global Education Network • Guelph International Resource Centre • Horizons of Friendship • Jamaican Self-Help Organization • Kawartha World Issues Centre • London Cross Cultural Learner Centre • Mennonite Central Committee of Ontario • Mines Action Canada • Oxfam-Ontario • Peace Brigades International • Physicians for Global Survival • Pueblito Canada • Rooftops Canada • SalvAide • Save a Family Plan • Street Kids International • Tamil Rehabilitation Organization • USC Canada • World Interaction Mondiale • World Literacy Canada • World Vision Canada • World University Service of Canada • YMCA – Kitchener Waterloo • YMCA – of Greater Toronto

New Members to be ratified:

- Engineers Without Borders
- War Child Canada

Associate Members

Michelle Balcers • Tracy Crowe • Eric Plato • Danielle de St. Jorre • Gwen Schauerte • Hristo Assadourian • Jodi Sinden • Linda Slavin • Peacefund Canada • Sally Janzen • Susan James • Michael O'Sullivan • Boris Budosan, M.D. • Cecilia Rocha, International Sociological Association • Patrice Palmer • Rahid Un Nabi • Rev. Terry O'Connor • Wendy Quinlan-Gagnon, Yasmine Shamsie • Abubakarr Kamara • Mohamed Nur • Kleva Gruda • Otu Ntewak • Shehryar Sarwar • Tracy Brown

Volunteers

Cheryl Stevens • Natalie Angell • Nada Jevtic • Michelle Balcers

Interns

Nissa Ally (OISE) • Josés Jones (OISE) • Nermin Abdulkerim (Interpraktik, Sweden)

Our Mission and Mandate

The Ontario Council for International Cooperation (OCIC) is a membership association of Ontario-based, not-for-profit, voluntary organizations and individual associates working both in the North and South for global justice. As a Council, OCIC strives to increase the effectiveness and collective impact of all its members' efforts to promote sustainable and people-centred development in a peaceful and healthy environment, and to educate and engage the Canadian public on global issues.

Services to Members

- Monthly e-Bulletins
- Website
- Fax service
- Liaison between Members and with CCIC and other provincial councils
- Clearing house for information and referrals to Members, the media and the public
- Policy monitoring and representation vis-à-vis CIDA
- Access to collaborative programming and funding opportunities for public engagement work
- Professional development workshops
- Global Citizens' Forum
- Networking opportunities

Information Exchange and Communications

Meetings, mailings, e-Bulletins, fax service, and website development, have facilitated information exchange and communications within the OCIC membership. The e-Bulletin provided up to date news of events, job postings and the latest happenings in the international cooperation and global education sector in Ontario. Members regularly communicated events and issues to the OCIC community through the OCIC Member fax-out service. The OCIC website includes direct links to all Member websites.

Global Education Initiatives

Last year's pre-service teacher interns from Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) produced the OCIC Train the Teachers Facilitators Guide, "Meeting Teachers' Needs with Strategies and Support," which provided the basis for a two-day train-the-trainer-teacher workshop for teachers from across Ontario. Along with the financial assistance of CIDA's Global Classroom Initiative, this workshop was further developed through a partnership with the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association (OECTA), the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation (OSSTF) and the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO). Teachers from all federations were invited to apply to attend the workshop, along with OCIC NGO global educators.

Thirty-one teachers and NGO educators attended this training session. From this initial training session a series of workshops have been scheduled for the summer and fall, including pre-service training, workshops for private schools involved in the International Baccalaureate program, and the federations' summer professional development programs for teachers. These workshops serve to bring teachers together with NGO global educators who can bring Canadian international development experience to the classroom.

This May, OISE pre-service teacher interns Nissa Ally and Josés Jones are mapping out global educators from around Ontario. They have been contacting teachers from all the school districts to create a contact/networking map for teachers to link to one another's global education work. Within the next few months, this active map will be available on the OCIC website.

Global Citizens' Forum 2005

This year's Global Citizens' Forum, "Community Links to International Development and Foreign Policy: A Local to Global Dialogue" focused on developing an engagement strategy for foreign policy related issues. With the international policy statement continually looming in the distance for the better part of 2004-05, OCIC wanted to work on raising political efficacy throughout our constituency.

With the financial assistance of Foreign Affairs Canada's Public Diplomacy Program, we were able to host a series of events that attempted to make local connections to global issues and further link those issues to a foreign policy framework. In December, animator Jessica Bleuer and OCIC coordinator Nadya Weber visited a Central Tech High School drama class to work through foreign policy issues using Legislative Theatre. Jessica also worked with Vaughn Secondary School.

At the end of January, OCIC hosted the Global Citizens' Forum. Over 70 people attended this full-day forum on a Saturday. The opening plenary, "Making Foreign Policy Less Foreign," included Olivia Ward, Toronto Star journalist; Gerry Barr, CEO of CCIC; and Toronto City Councillor Joe Mihevc. Together, these speakers brought a range of perspectives to the proposition of making foreign policy less foreign. For the rest of the forum, NGOs, students, educators and other community-based participants shared stories and experiences in an attempt to link local concerns with foreign policies, for example, the local privatization of prisons as a global issue/phenomenon, and experienced Legislative Theatre and Deliberative Dialogue techniques as methods of engagement.

We encourage OCIC members and friends to continue their engagement with foreign policy through the "Foreign Policy Discussion Guide" and the "Making Foreign Policy Less Foreign" scoping paper both available on the OCIC website, www.ocic.on.ca.

International Development Week and Make Poverty History Committeés

Discussion at the OCIC AGM encouraged members to come together and collaborate on IDW events. This year, over a dozen NGOs and volunteers from Toronto, Kitchener-Waterloo and Ottawa worked together to create a series of events that would engage Ontarians during IDW 2005. Events in Toronto kicked off with OCIC's Global Citizens' Forum which led into a workshop for international development opportunities held in Regent Park, a CUSO book launch, information booths set up at the YMCA, a coffee house discussion on international development and disability, a film night, a volunteer sending organization panel and a much needed social evening for celebrating with other hard working NGO folks.

The IDW committee felt that it was important to keep collaborating on public engagement programming for the sector and we have now morphed into the Make Poverty History Planning Committee. Please join in on the Make Poverty History planning process: contact Nadya at info@ocic.on.ca

Thanks!

On behalf of its Members and Associates, OCIC would like to sincerely thank all of you who demonstrated your commitment to OCIC and the international cooperation and global education sector by giving your time and effort to the Council's mission and program. During 2004/2005 OCIC's work was greatly enhanced by the assistance of over 20 volunteers and three interns who contributed over 500 hours. In particular, we recognize the contributions of retiring Board Members: Christine Alden (Pueblito), Tabish Surani (Canada World Youth) and David Ast (Casa Canadiense) and the work of designer Krishan Jayatunge of Kroworks, web designer Mark Sloan from Think Branch, and big thank you to Development and Peace who kindly share their resources and meeting space.

Board of Directors 2004 / 2005

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– PRESIDENT
Bill Sparks, CUSO Ontario
– VICE-PRESIDENT
Lori Ryan, Development and Peace
– SECRETARY
Eric Plato, Associate Member
– TREASURER
Adele Halliday, World Vision
David Ast, Casa Canadiense
Ben Marans, World Literacy of Canada
Tabish Surani, Canada World Youth
John Popiel, Christian's Children's Fund of Canada
Christine Alden, Pueblito Canada
Eva Morrison, Mines Action Canada

OCIC Staff 2004 / 2005

Nadya Weber – Coordinator
Natalie Angell – Administrative/
Membership Assistant
Maria-Elena Oliva – P/T Bookkeeper

Special Thanks

Canadian Council for International Cooperation • Leela Acharya, CUSO Ontario • Emma Rooney, Street Kids International • Carole Piovesan and Jessica Bleuer • Naomi Savage and Central Tech's Gr. 11 Drama class • Vaughn Secondary School • Shawn Pegg.

Partners and Friends

Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association (OECTA) • Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation (OSSTF) • Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO) • Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at University of Toronto (OISE/UT): preservice teacher internship program, Transformative Learning Centre

IDW Planning Committee

Zenobia Homavazir, CACL • Laurier Brown, CCI • Lisa Carl, Red Cross • Leela Acharya, CUSO • Nada Jevtic • Paul Faucette, YMAAP • Sarah Hutchison, World Vision • Sophia Wong, EWB • Eric Luguya, YCI • Kim Outten, Pathways to Education • Diane Der, CWY • Emily Reed, YMCA • Sara Maki, YMCA-KW

Funders

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