



BC Council for International Cooperation  
1989 - 2009 Celebrating 20 Years!

[www.bccic.ca](http://www.bccic.ca)

One Village

November 2009

[info@bccic.ca](mailto:info@bccic.ca)

## BCCIC Update

### In this issue

BCCIC Update	1-2	Member Profile	5
News Flash	2	Community Update	6
Member News and Events	3-4	Opportunities	7
Stories from the Field	5	Who We Are	7

### Canadian Council for International Cooperation's Living our Principles: Workshops on Ethical Practice in CSOs—November 9th and 10th in Vancouver

There are still spots available at the Canadian Council for International Cooperation's workshops in Vancouver. These workshops will take place on November 9th and 10th in Vancouver.

The first workshop entitled "**Leading the Way: Ethics and Governance**", will take place on November 9th, 5pm at the YWCA Hotel in Vancouver. Participants will become more accustomed to seeing decisions through an ethical lens; work through scenarios applying ethical principles; and learn how to make sound decisions when ethical values are in conflict.

The second session, "**Focus on Ethics: Images in Fundraising**" on November 10th, 9am at the Canadian Red Cross in Burnaby focuses on the ethical side of fundraising. During this session, participants will develop an understanding of the issues in the sector around ethical fundraising images; learn how to apply an ethical framework for addressing conflicts in values in moving toward innovative practice; and obtain resources to help promote ethical principles.

View the flyer for this event at [bccic.ca/frontpage\\_news/CCICWorkshops.pdf](http://bccic.ca/frontpage_news/CCICWorkshops.pdf).

For more information and to reserve your spot, at one or both of these workshop, please contact Nicole at [info@bccic.ca](mailto:info@bccic.ca).

### International Development Drinks Night – October 8

BCCIC and Engineers Without Borders (EWB) partnered up for an International Drinks Night on October 8<sup>th</sup> at the Irish Heather in Gastown. The night was an enormous networking success with over 100 attendees! The evening featured talks from BCCIC individual member Don Wright from Amnesty International, Sean Devlin of the Climate Action Network who works with Oxfam Canada and Dan Boland from EWB.



Meseret Taye, Nico Marr with Canadian Humanitarian, and Rebecca Mellett with CIDA pose at BCCIC and EWB's International Development Drinks.

### Podcasting 101 in Victoria

On November 6, participants in Victoria came together to learn about Podcasting 101 from Scott Paton, author of *Podcasting Unleashed* and Umeeda Switlo from CUSO-VSO. The full-day workshop was held at the University of Victoria and gave an opportunity for individuals and organizations on Vancouver Island to learn ways in which podcasting can benefit their public engagement efforts.

Feedback from the workshop was positive with one participant writing, "Excellent workshop - well worth attending! Lots of great ideas and well delivered - Thanks so much!"

Umeeda's podcasts can be found at [cuso-vso.mypodcastworld.com](http://cuso-vso.mypodcastworld.com).



## BCCIC Update

### BCCIC in Prince George and Courtenay

#### *Nizeyimana Seleman in Prince George*

The Global Learning Symposiums are a public engagement initiative of BCCIC and funded by CIDA. This program brings together development practitioners from the South to communities in BC.

The first symposium was held in Prince George on October 2nd at the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC).

Nizeyimana Seleman told his story of how he overcame his time as a child soldier during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. He has since found the Association for Youth Literacy and Trades Education (ASOLATE - <http://asolate.org>) where more than 360 street children, child soldiers and refugees have since learned skills in painting, electrical work, soap-making and sewing.

Seleman came to Canada as one of SAWA's heroes, an organization



working to empower grassroots leaders like Seleman to connect with a global network of partners. Bahaar Afshar, a student at UNBC, was so moved by Seleman that she has started a fundraising campaign to raise \$8200 to pay the school tuition for 41 orphans in ASOLATE's care.

#### *Striving for Equity in Nigeria*

On November 3rd, BCCIC partnered with One Sky, The Canadian Institute for Sustainable Living and World Community for an event in Courtenay — *Striving for Equity in Nigeria*. *Striving for Equity in Nigeria* hosted two visitors from Nigeria - Juliet Olory with Development in Nigeria and Godwin Ugah with the Council for Renewable Energy ([www.renewablenigeria.org](http://www.renewablenigeria.org)). The speakers discussed the horrors of the gas flares and oil fields in the Niger Delta and discussed the initiatives that local Nigerians are implementing to empower, build capacity and alleviate poverty. Don Wright with Amnesty International followed up the presentations by the Nigerians in discussing how Amnesty is working with the public and the media to promote corporate responsibility, respect for human

rights and an end to human rights violations around the world.

The speakers presented to both students at Mark R. Isfeld Secondary and members of the public at the Women's Resource Centre in Courtenay.



*Godwin Ugah discussed unsustainable energy in the Niger Delta.*

## News Flash

### October 24, 2009—International Day of Climate Action

On 24 October, people in 181 countries came together for the most widespread day of environmental action in the planet's history. At over 5200 events around the world, people gathered to call for strong action and bold leadership on the climate crisis.

In Vancouver, thousands of supporters gathered on the Cambie Street Bridge and paraded to Science World to rally for action on Climate Change at the wildly successful Bridge to a Cool Planet event ([www.bridgecoolplanet.ca](http://www.bridgecoolplanet.ca)). Participants, some dressed in colourful costumes, waved placards and unfurled banners that read "Global Warming Is Not Cool," "Trains Not Lanes," and "Protect Our Forests."

Sean Devlin, co-founder of the Vancouver event, said the city had peace marches on the Burrard Bridge in the 1980s. "We're trying to sort of bring back that tradition in Vancouver that a lot of people have forgotten about."

Participants urged the federal government to be a strong leader during the United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen (<http://en.cop15.dk/frontpage>) this December and to commit to a more aggressive policy on reducing carbon emissions.



*Photo courtesy of Adam Fischmann*

## Member News & Events

### Poverty Revolution. FH Canada's Revolutionary Solution to the Poverty Crisis.

FH Canada is proud to announce the launch of a new and interactive online platform to engage Canadians in the development process called Poverty Revolution. FH Canada's new website features profiles of their current developing communities and allows Canadians to join one or more of these online communities for free. [www.povertyrevolution.org](http://www.povertyrevolution.org)



### Join EWB's Book Club

EWB's book club meets regularly to discuss books that cover a variety of international development topics. To join the book club and learn which book will be discussed next, email [kyl robertson70@gmail.com](mailto:kyl robertson70@gmail.com)



### Her Sight Is Worth It Video Contest

Deadline – December 15<sup>th</sup>

Seva Canada is calling on Canadians age 13 and up to help restore sight and prevent blindness in girls and women - by creating short videos about vision and gender. The top three winning short films will be used to inspire and educate the world about the importance of sight and raise awareness of the 30 million blind women and girls. [www.hersight.ca](http://www.hersight.ca)



### Annual Sustainer's Circle Breakfast

November 4th, 8-9am

Vancouver Club

One of ACCES' two major fund-raising events of the year this is a "not to be missed" event.. These pledges and donations are the financial backbone of ACCES. Then mark your calendars and plan to bring your guests! [event@acceskenya.org](mailto:event@acceskenya.org)



### Amnesty International Fundraising Dance

November 6

Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph Street

Join Dave Myles for the 8th annual line up of fabulous local musicians for an evening that promises to rock the house for human rights. The theme this year is water, so use your imagination to dress up.

Tickets \$15. Dave, 604-524-0110



### Regional Amnesty Meeting

November 8

SFU Harbour Centre

The day will feature an update on current campaigns, and a review of the next branch plan which will guide AI Canada work for the next several years.

### Monthly Feast for the Eyes Benefit

November 11, 7pm

3243 West Broadway

The second Wednesday of every month is Seva night at the [Chai Gallery](#) featuring great food, a wonderful atmosphere and some of Vancouver's best world musicians. Call Chai directly at 604-734-5881 to reserve your table.

Cost for the evening is \$25 at the door, plus a donation to Seva.



### Trek for TRAS in the Spectacular Mt Everest Region of Nepal Information Session

November 12, 7pm

Room A122a, Langara College

A collaboration between Langara College Continuing Studies, Everest Trekking Canada and the Trans-Himalayan Aid Society (TRAS) in support of Buddha Academy Boarding

School for marginalized children in Nepal. For more information or to RSVP: contact Kathryn Ellis at Langara College 604-323-5979, [kellis@langara.bc.ca](mailto:kellis@langara.bc.ca)



## Member News & Events

### Amnesty International Film Festival

November 12 - 15, Vancouver

November 20 - 22, Victoria

This year the Vancouver edition of the Amnesty International Film Festival features 25 films highlighting human rights issues around the world and celebrating individuals and groups working for change. Full program posted at

[www.amnestyfilmfest.ca](http://www.amnestyfilmfest.ca), [www.amnestyfilmsvictoria.ca](http://www.amnestyfilmsvictoria.ca).



amnesty international canada  
JUSTICE | EQUALITY | FREEDOM

### A Story to Tell and a Place for the Telling 2010 Series: "Women in War"

November 16, 7pm

SFU Harbour Centre

Presented by The Canadian Red Cross and SFU's ISSA. Two Afghanistan born women living in Canada will be sharing their personal stories with war in Afghanistan and taking questions from the public. 604-709-6653.



Canadian Red Cross

### YMCA Power of Peace Awards

November 23, 7:30pm

SFU Burnaby Campus, Saywell Hall

The YMCA Power of Peace Awards is an opportunity to celebrate local individuals and organizations whose work strengthens communities through the promotion of peace. [ymcapowerofpeace.org](http://ymcapowerofpeace.org)



### EWB Film Night

November 25, 7pm

428 Pacific Street

This month's film night features Taking Root - A look at Wangari Maathai, the first environmentalist and African woman to win the Nobel Prize, and the organization, The Green Belt Movement, she created in

Kenya to plant trees in the community. [takingrootfilm.com/](http://takingrootfilm.com/) Seating limited, RSVP [kyl robertson70@gmail.com](mailto:kyl robertson70@gmail.com)



engineers without borders  
ingénieurs sans frontières  
Canada

### 16 Days of Activism Against Gender

November 25 - December 10

This year, the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence campaign will be taking place to raise awareness and dialogue around violence against women. This is an annual campaign that has seen tens of thousands of activists from every region of the world take part in a united movement for women's rights since its beginning in 1991.

[admin@wecanbc.ca](mailto:admin@wecanbc.ca)



### Seva's AGM

December 4, 7pm

Centre for Peace, 1825 West 16<sup>th</sup> Ave

Join us for an evening reception and brief AGM with special guests Dr. Salma KC Rai and Dr. Chundak Tenzing, both ophthalmologists from Nepal. Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP



### CUSO-VSO Celebrates UN International Volunteer Day

December 9, 5pm

St. James Community Centre, 33214 West 10<sup>th</sup> Ave.

On the United Nation's International Volunteer Day, let's celebrate the work of over 2,000 British Columbians that have served with CUSO, VSO Canada and CUSO-VSO in the last 48 years. [umeeda.switlo@cuso-vso.org](mailto:umeeda.switlo@cuso-vso.org)



### CPAR's 2010 Study Tour

May 11-27<sup>th</sup>

Malawi

See for yourself development projects in action, learn about how health and development projects are implemented on the ground and meet directly with communities and project beneficiaries. While in Malawi the Study Tour will travel throughout the northern part of the country visiting projects focused on CPAR's key areas of intervention.

Cost \$5500. [www.cpar.ca](http://www.cpar.ca)



## Stories from the Field

### Irma Arkus on Seva Canada's Her Sight Is Worth It Campaign

When working on the *Her Sight Is Worth It* public awareness campaign for Seva Canada, the task of gaining media attention prompted an arduous journey. This is not a unique experience, but the kind that every communications professional undertakes when working on getting the needed media coverage.

Writing a press release may be the first step, but an important one. Ideally though, you should try to write one release per week, each time supplying a "hook." A hook is an idea that is deemed sexy enough for a story, and usually involves not only your organization, but a relevant human interest angle.

Then comes the Press Kit. As a media insider, I can vouch for the fact that media is made up of people with limited time and resources. The more time you can save them on research the better off you are. The Press Kit for Seva Canada included contacts and biographies, organizational background information, a schedule of upcoming events, added quotes and even high

resolution photos and promotional graphics, such as posters, ads and banners that could be instantaneously plucked and added to a website or a news piece.

The real work begins here: communicating with media using persistence, stubbornness and salesmanship. The labour-intensive pestering of media you would like and some you never thought of. Call them up, ask boldly for producers or editorial and talk to them. Then follow up, talk to them again, discussing all possibilities. Then rinse. Then repeat.

My experience working with Seva Canada can only be described as wonderful, and all my hard work paid off. From student publications to enthusiastic bloggers, Shaw TV, numerous radio stations including a News 1130 interview, an impressive spread in *The Province*, and online news services carrying the press release can only be described as a success! But there is a dirty secret to all of that: well over a thousand emails sent, combined with countless hours of persistent phone calls and follow-ups.

*Irma Arkus is a communications and broadcasting professional. For information and tips, contact [iar-kus@gmail.com](mailto:iar-kus@gmail.com) or call 778-836-4023. To find out more about the Seva Canada campaign, visit [www.HerSight.ca](http://www.HerSight.ca)*

## Member Profile

### Justice Education Society International Programs

The Justice Education Society's International Programs work in various regions of the world to strengthen the capacities of the justice system. Our vision is to build stronger communities by promoting understanding of, access to, and confidence in justice systems, at home and abroad.

The Justice Education Society relies on the best international practices and adapts them to different countries and social contexts. Region-specific programming has been developed to create expertise in building local capacity in civil society and the formal justice system. The overall intent is to develop local capacity and to then integrate this into the ongoing operational work of our justice system partners.

The Society is seen as a leader in Canada, working to engage civil society in the areas of justice reform and governance and has won numerous international awards for its innovative programming.

Currently, our projects are at work in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Ethiopia, in addition to a Traditional Justice Knowledge Exchange project between Canadian Aboriginal communities and Mayan communities in Guatemala.

[www.justiceeducation.ca/international](http://www.justiceeducation.ca/international)




She lives in a developing country, where 2 out of 3 blind are girls and women

**Her Sight Is Worth It**  
**VIDEO CONTEST**

[www.HerSight.ca](http://www.HerSight.ca)



*Justice Education Society International Programs*

## Community Update

### Shoot2Change

[Shoot2change.wordpress.com](http://Shoot2change.wordpress.com) is a video blog aimed to encourage positive social change through the powerful medium of film, video and animation and is to be a platform for information share. It's a one stop site that's completely open source for anybody and every body to upload their stories, spark dialogue and express their passions for the positive changes they are making in their communities.

### 70's Bollywood Gala: A Fundraiser for Immigrant Women

November 6, 6 pm

Bollywood Banquet Hall, 201- 8166, 128th St, Surrey

Presented by the Progressive Intercultural Community Services Society (PICS), the gala will feature entertainment, wine, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, a silent auction and much more! Dress code is 70's Bollywood theme, and proceeds benefit PICS' Second Stage Housing Project for immigrant women.

[gala2009@pics.bc.ca](mailto:gala2009@pics.bc.ca)

### Inter Nation Christmas Markets

November 7-8

Heritage Hall

November 28 -29

Van Dusen Gardens

Come and do your Christmas shopping at the annual InterNation market. The markets host an array of vendors and international food merchants.

### Rice Day 2009

November 18<sup>th</sup>

Global

Do something constructive this fall – **eat rice!** On November 18th, join students and teachers across Canada and the world. Organized by the Newfoundland-based NGO Two Villages and USC Canada, Rice Day encourages students and teachers to eat a simple bowl of white rice for lunch on Rice Day – and **donate** their lunch money – to help young people in Timor Leste. [twovillages@persona.ca](http://twovillages@persona.ca)



### The Blue Summit

November 27-29

Ottawa

CUPE and the Council of Canadians are holding a national meeting to energize the campaign for public water and work towards 10 more years of successful water activism. The weekend is a combination of plenaries, workshops and caucuses that aims to renew and broaden our coalition in Canada.

[www.cupe.ca/bluesummit](http://www.cupe.ca/bluesummit)



### Volunteer Vancouver's Leaders' Circle – Fraser Valley

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of Each Month, 7:30 – 9:30am

Envision Financial, 6470-201 St, Langley

Leaders' Circle is a monthly opportunity for voluntary sector leaders to learn together, and from one another; to develop a network of support; and to share and receive ideas and feedback. The program consists of **8 break-fast workshops** and is designed for Executive Directors and Board Members. Sending multiple attendees from a single organization is highly encouraged to expand the impact of this program at the organizational level.

[msonico@volunteervancouver.ca](mailto:msonico@volunteervancouver.ca)

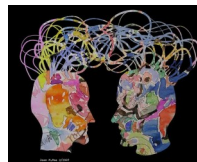
### Foreign Policy Camp

November 30, 9am – 5pm

SFU Harbour Centre

Foreign Policy Camp is an innovative hybrid conference about rethinking Canada's role in the world. We will be focusing our attention on some of the key foreign policy challenges before us - with the goal of showcasing new thinkers and doers in the Canadian foreign policy world.

[rethinkforeignpolicy.ca/](http://rethinkforeignpolicy.ca/)



### 4th semi-annual Munk Debate

December 1st at 6:30 PM, (EST)

Online

The 4th Munk Debate will tackle the resolution: "Be it resolved, climate change is mankind's defining crisis, and demands a commensurate response." Sign up to receive a link to watch the debate proceedings on the Internet [www.munkdebates.com/membership\\_tickets/streamSignup.cfm](http://www.munkdebates.com/membership_tickets/streamSignup.cfm)



### 20th Anniversary: Memorial for the Montréal Massacre of Women

December 5

Vancouver Public Library, 350 West Georgia

In memory of the 14 women who were killed on Dec 6th 1989 in an engineering class at L'Ecole Polytechnique by a man who declared "I hate feminists" as he opened fire. This all day conference is free and open to the public. [www.rapereliefshelter.bc.ca](http://www.rapereliefshelter.bc.ca)

### KEY INTERNATIONAL DAYS

#### November

- 6** International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict
- 14** World Diabetes Day
- 16** International Day of Tolerance
- 20** Universal Children's Day, *and* Africa Industrialization Day
- 25** International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
- 29** International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

## Opportunities

### Volunteer in Bolivia, Canadian Crossroads International

Call for volunteers to work with Bolivian partners working in community economic development from January 2010 to July 2010! All positions require a minimum of high intermediate Spanish and specific job skills and requirements as posted on CCI's website. These are volunteer positions that receive a modest stipend and have all related travel and living expenses covered. [www.cciorg.ca](http://www.cciorg.ca)



### CUSO-VSO's Overseas Volunteer Opportunities

This fall, CUSO-VSO is launching a special volunteer recruitment drive for placements in 9 countries in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. We're looking for experienced professionals to start placements in early 2010. All volunteers are eligible for CUSO-VSO's comprehensive training and support package, which covers the costs of volunteering overseas. You'll also be invited to one assessment day and two pre-departure training courses, held at our Ottawa office and training centre. Application Deadline: Friday, November 13, 2009 [www.cuso-vso.org](http://www.cuso-vso.org)

## Who We Are



BCCIC is a coalition of individuals and non-governmental organizations working to achieve sustainable human development. We support our members by providing networking opportunities, information sharing, training, and by representing their interests in dealing with government and other parties.

**Phone:** 604-899-4475

**Fax:** 604-899-4436

**E-mail:** [info@bccic.ca](mailto:info@bccic.ca)

**Mail:** 120 – 425 Carrall St., Vancouver, BC V6B 6E3

**In-person:** 120 – 23 W. Pender St.

### BCCIC Members

- African Canadian Continuing Education Society, Vancouver
- Africa Community Technical Service, Comox
- Canadian Crossroads International, Vancouver
- Canadian Food for the Hungry, Abbotsford
- Canadian Harambee Education Society
- Canadian Humanitarian Organization for International Relief
- Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief, Vancouver
- Canadian Red Cross Society, Burnaby
- Capilano University: Global Stewardship Program, North Vancouver
- Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives, University of Victoria
- Co-Development Canada, Vancouver
- CUSO- VSO, Langley
- Engineers Without Borders Canada
- Firefighters Without Borders BC Charitable Society
- Global Aid Network, Langley
- Global Smile Oral Health Association, Vancouver
- Global Village Nanaimo
- HOPE International Development Agency, New Westminster
- IN Network Canada, Kelowna
- Interamericana Community Self Development Society, Vancouver
- International Centre for Sustainable Cit-
- ies
- International Institute for Child Rights and Development, Victoria
- Justice Education Society of BC
- Lotus Outreach Society Canada
- Maria Helena Foundation, Vancouver
- Mennonite Central Committee, Abbotsford
- Operation Eyesight Universal, North Vancouver
- One Sky - Canadian Institute of Sustainable Living, Smithers
- Oxfam Canada, Vancouver
- Pacific Peoples' Partnership, Victoria
- Partners for Prosperity, Shawnigan Lake
- RESULTS Canada, Victoria
- Seva Canada Society, Vancouver
- Society for the Rehabilitation of the Horn of Africa, Vancouver
- Teachers Without Borders Canada
- The Kesho Trust, Saanich
- Trans Himalayan Aid Society, Vancouver
- Victoria International Development Education Association
- Willing Hearts International Society
- World Neighbours Canada Society, Oliver
- World Community Development Education Society
- YMCA of Greater Vancouver