



## BOLIVIAN GAS IN STATE AND CORPORATE HANDS

*In May 2006 the history  
of resources in Bolivia  
entered a new phase...*



PHOTO BY GARY PAYNE, FROM WWW.AMERICAS.ORG

Years before the arrival of the Spanish, Bolivia's indigenous people used "magic water" to cure wounds and keep fires going. With the invention of the automobile in the 1880s this black liquid took on a new importance. Since then, the oil and gas has been more of a curse than a blessing for the Bolivian people. On May 1st of this year, the history of these resources entered a new phase.

Bolivian President Evo Morales announced that the oil and gas will be nationalized and put into the hands of the state-run oil and gas company, Yacimientos Petrolíferos Fiscales Bolivianos (YPFB). Though what this nationalization plan truly entails may not be known for weeks, the move begs the question – **will state control of resources be more beneficial to the Bolivian people than corporate control?**

### PROPERTY OF THE BOLIVIAN PEOPLE

"The time has come, the awaited day, a historic day in which Bolivia retakes absolute control of its natural resources," Morales said in a speech from the San Alberto petroleum field, wearing a white helmet from YPFB. Nearby a banner hung that said, "Nationalized: Property of the Bolivian people." The day the announcement was made thousands converged to celebrate the nationalization in La Paz's central Plaza Murillo.

The decree bumps up Bolivia's share of profits coming from two major gas fields, San Alberto and San Antonio, from roughly 50% to 82%. These fields, which represent 70% of Bolivia's natural gas, are currently owned and operated by Brazil's Petrobras, Spain and Argentina's Repsol and France's Total. Smaller fields will continue with the same tax

arrangement which allots 50% to the government. Within 60 days, YPFB is to control oil and gas production, exploration, and distribution. Within 180 days, foreign companies are obliged to sign renegotiated contracts which give more control to the state. If they refuse to renegotiate, they have to leave the country. The new decree does not call for the total expropriation of foreign assets. It does involve a mandatory sale of most assets in the oil and gas industry to the government. The state will seize the assets of those companies which refuse to renegotiate contracts. Bolivian Vice President Alvaro Garcia Linera said that by 2007, these changes will increase the government's annual income by \$320 million.

In order to establish the new terms of operations and tax rates, the decree includes an audit of all oil and gas companies working in Bolivia. The state will recover 51% of shares from five companies which were carved out of the privatization of YPFB in 1996,

*Benjamin Dangl graduated from Bard College with a degree in writing in 2003, and has traveled and worked as a journalist in over twenty five countries, writing for a variety of publications. His main focus is Latin America. He is also the author of The Price of Fire: Resource Wars and Social Movements in Bolivia (forthcoming from AK Press, 2007). Benjamin edits UpsideDownWorld.org and this is reprinted with his permission and consultation.*

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Change for Children Association (CFC) is an Edmonton-based non-profit, non-governmental organization with a 30-year history of working for sustainable, grassroots community development in Latin America and Africa.

Our development projects, their cost and priority, are determined by our Southern partners according to the current needs of their communities.

In Canada, our Global Education program engages the public in a process of awareness raising, analysis and action on issues of global justice.

While CFC highly values its partnerships with communities of various religious and political persuasions, we are a non-sectarian, non-partisan society.



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**CFC, #221 9624 108 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 1A4  
Ph: 780-448-1505 • Fx: 780-448-1507  
www.changeforchildren.org  
cfc@www.changeforchildren.org**

**Change for Children Office Move**  
Change for Children will be moving to a new Edmonton location as of July 1, 2006. We will be sending out a notice of new address and upcoming office warming event. Please continue to send any letters or donations to our current address until further notice.

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# 1976-2006 THIRTY YEARS OF CHANGE FOR CHILDREN IN THE AMERICAS

June 26, 2006 marks Change for Children's 30th anniversary, a rich and interconnected history formed out of cultural performances, music, the arts, partnerships, and social movements that have spanned decades. For the next year we will celebrate this important milestone with friends and supporters by revisiting images from our past. We reflect upon our role in movements that have grown stronger and changed history in the face of generations of military dictatorships, structural adjustment, neo-liberal economic policies and exploitation of resources. We bring together the exiled, the children of the exiled, social movements and solidarity that seem timeless and connect communities across borders and time.

Change for Children members and project partners have felt the profound and enormous impact that Central and South America has had over thirty years on the organization struggling to develop in a way that is inspired by justice and remembering those who have gone before and the generations that will continue to provide access to education, to basic health, struggle for gender rights, to dignity.

As we begin a celebration of thirty years we dedicate this issue to the people and partnerships in Central and South America that have shaped who



PHOTO BY MARK CHATENAY - 2006 DENTAL BRIGADE

we have become and that continue to remind us of the perseverance and hope that is possible when we remain steadfast and work with conviction. We thank all of you for your contribution to these partnerships and we ask that you continue to do so for years to come. Change for Children has learned throughout its history the need to promote mutual information and education exchange (between North and South); Support voices struggling to establish economic, social and cultural autonomy; Support the capacity building efforts of Central American and South American, and African -based community organizations; Strengthen North-South, North-North and South-South relationships.

– *Fiona Cavanagh*  
CFC Education Coordinator

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**ordinary people  
can do  
extraordinary  
things**

– Hank Zyp, CFC Founder

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## Bolivian Gas

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when many of the current contracts were drawn up. Bolivian officials contend that these contracts are unconstitutional because they were not ratified by congress, which is required by Bolivian law. In this light, the nationalization is a return to constitutionality.

From September to October in 2003 massive protests took place against a plan to export Bolivia's gas to the US for a meager price. The mobilizations resulted in an estimated 80 deaths and hundreds of injuries. In the end, the protests forced Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada (then president) to resign. The current nationalization plan is in part a response to pressure from this grassroots movement.

"We are moved because the nationalization of hydrocarbons has been one of the fundamental demands of the mobilizations of October 2003 and May and June 2005. For us, it's homage to the fallen of October," Edgar Patana, the executive secretary of the Regional Workers' Central of El Alto "It's an historic act that, hopefully, in the following months, will bring the country more revenue, to relieve unemployment, and make more jobs available...."

Morales, came to power on platforms which promised a change from the structural adjustments pushed by the International Monetary Fund and free market economic policies which favored the interests of foreign corporations over the welfare of the people. Instead of bringing about the promised development and progress, thirty years of such policies has plunged the region into the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.

### THE CASE FOR NATIONALIZATION OF OIL AND GAS IN BOLIVIA

History illustrates that an oil and gas industry run by YPFB is a feasible and lucrative option. In 1937, during the government of David Toro the state-run company was created. From then until 1940, YPFB produced 882,000 barrels of oil which was more than Standard Oil had produced in 15 years of opera-

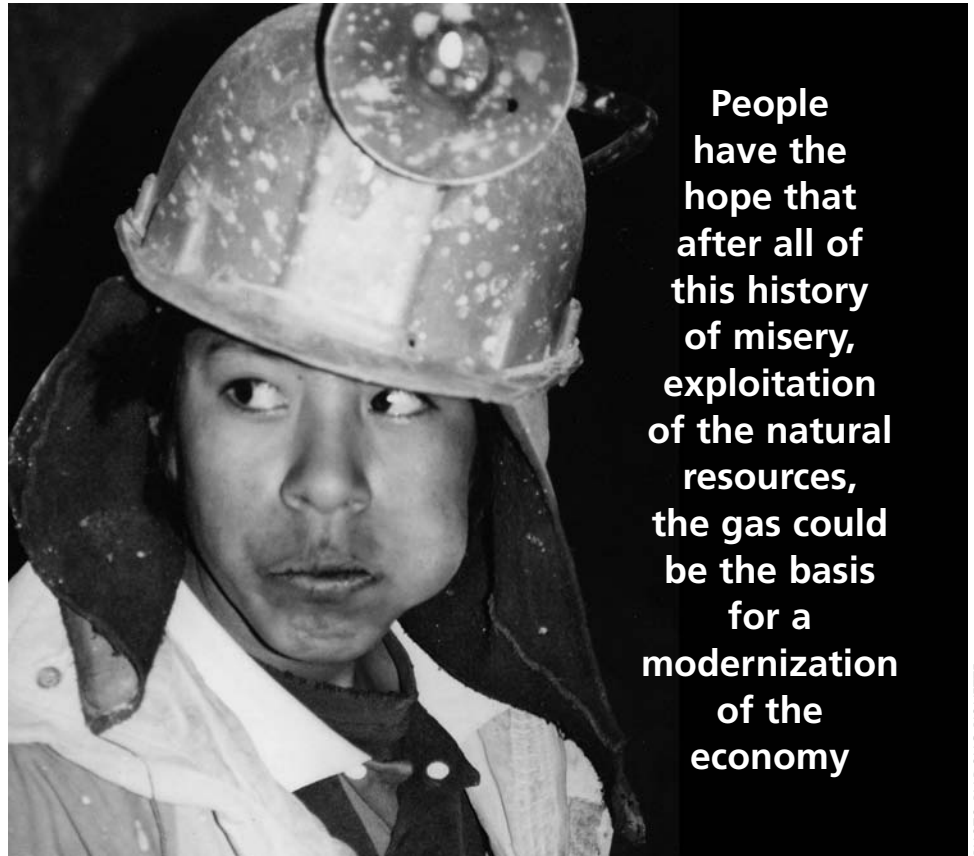


PHOTO BY DOUG RIQUETTE

**People have the hope that after all of this history of misery, exploitation of the natural resources, the gas could be the basis for a modernization of the economy**

tions in Bolivia. In 1953, the company produced enough to take care of the national consumption of oil.<sup>2</sup> For over 60 years, YPFB generated enormous funding for the government. It explored, exploited, built ducts, refining plants.<sup>3</sup> From 1985-1995, YPFB was the main source of economic support for the state. The success and experience of the company contributed to the population's recurring demands for nationalization of oil and gas.

"People have the hope that after all of this history of misery, exploitation of the natural resources, the gas could be the basis for a modernization of the economy. Not just to be utilized as energy, but also a basis for a future of industrialization," Carlos Arze of Bolivia's Center for Labor and Agricultural Development (CEDLA) explained in an interview in his office in La Paz, where large windows looked over the city. The key element to this industrialization is the rising cost of oil and gas.<sup>5</sup>

As the amount of global gas reserves decrease, the demand will increase, putting Bolivia in a good position to financially gain from the business if the state takes advantage of

its position as a major gas producer.

Brazil is hugely dependent on Bolivian gas. Over time, there will be more interest in Bolivia as a gas producer. Studies have shown that in 1997 the amount of gas in Bolivia was estimated to be 5.7 trillion cubic feet. In 2003, that figure rose to 54.9 trillion. It's likely that more gas will be discovered in the coming years.<sup>6</sup>

There is a general feeling in Bolivia that to sell most of the gas to the exterior is a poor use of the resource. The gas and its derivatives could be better used by the impoverished Bolivian population. Before it is processed, gas has methane, propane, ethane, butane and other gases in it. It can also be used to produce fertilizers, explosives, plastics, heat and electricity. The resource could be used in industries, kitchen and energy plants. Even if all of the houses, kitchens in Bolivia had access to gas, it wouldn't use even 1.5% of the reserves.<sup>7</sup>

For decades, gold, rubber, tin and other raw materials from Bolivia were sold for a low price while foreign companies profited from the industrialization of these raw materials and sold

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# Bolivian Gas

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them abroad for a much higher price, while Bolivia remained impoverished. This took place, Iriarte explained, under the argument that “Bolivia requires investments and work” and that “those who oppose the sell of the gas, oppose development.” ...In practice, the biggest benefactors of the sale are the transnational companies that transport, liquidize and commercialize the gas.” He argues that the gas needs to be industrialized in order to use it in Bolivia and to export it for a higher price. He suggests the price of gas to companies needs to be raised so it can stimulate the Bolivian economy.<sup>8</sup>

Whereas there are 6-7 barrels of oil [used] per capita in Argentina, Chile – in Bolivia we have around 2, and we have a large reserve of energy. Natural gas, which is the most important hydrocarbon in our reserves, only arrives to 1.5-2% of the population. More than 90% of the gas is exported. And of the 10% that is left, a very small amount enters the network of domestic use.

## STATE vs. CORPORATE OWNERSHIP

In Morales’ nationalization plan, the management of the oil and gas goes to YPFB. This leaves the question – how will the industry operate without foreign investments? Arze explained that foreign corporate investment is not needed to expand the gas industry in Bolivia. In fact, he argues, corporate control and investment of the resources has so far had the opposite effect. As far as transportation, foreign companies have mainly created gas ducts to other countries for exportation, and there are no new gas ducts for international users. For example, the biggest gas duct to Brazil is 40 times bigger than the one that goes to La Paz, which is Bolivia’s largest duct. The older ducts created by YPFB are in disrepair and cause regular environmental problems. When the Brazilian oil and gas company, Petrobras bought three of the state refineries, **they didn’t invest anything into them.**

**Foreign investors have placed more emphasis on making money by selling to external markets, than developing the infrastructure in Bolivia for national use and industrialization.** The technology needed for industrialization has not been provided, and what infrastructure that does exist is in poor condition. The result is that the country with one of the largest gas reserves in the region has some of the worst distribution and industrialization methods for its own citizens.

“Therefore, this foreign and new investment – what new things has it brought to Bolivia?” Arze asked. “The exploration, they say it is very high, there is probably a lot of investment in this. But the areas with the most reserves...were discovered by YPFB more than 15 years ago.” However, at the time, YPFB lacked enough funding from the government to utilize the discovery, and it went into the hands of foreign corporations. “The state created an infrastructure that up to today continues and created many technical experts that are currently working for private companies. The state did this with a small amount of financial resources.” This business was given up to foreign companies, and the

**This foreign and new investment – what new things has it brought to Bolivia?**

government, in a sense, turned its back on the highest priced market in the world.

Now we develop something like 20 times more gas than before. Is it possible to find [financial] resources? Is it possible to improve the terms of our negotiation with other companies and countries? I think so. Right now the world market is good for us because of the high price of oil; the gas market is becoming more important. There is also an energy crisis in the region.

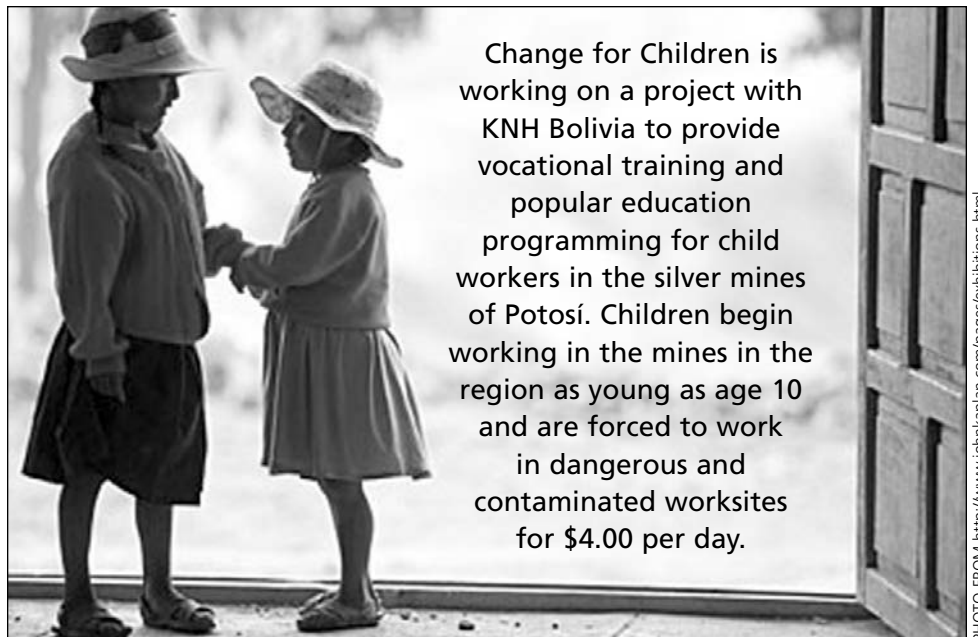
Chile, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay and Argentina need gas. And who has the gas? Bolivia. So Bolivia could negotiate for better conditions.

Arze explained that by renegotiating with companies, raising the taxes and royalties which companies

pay, the Bolivian government could significantly increase the money it makes from the oil and gas industry. It could then use that funding to recuperate YPFB, which had operated well years earlier which a much smaller budget.

The new nationalization plan could, as Morales has promised, end up being the “solution to the economic and social problems of the country.” However, much still depends on how the corporations and the Bolivian people respond once the dust settles.

1. Information has been omitted. 2. El Centro de Estudios para el Desarrollo Laboral y Agrario (CEDLA), “Los Hidrocarburos en la historia de Bolivia”, p12. 3. García, “La Nacionalización del Gas”, p. 138. 4. Slaguetto, “YPFB, Entre nacionalistas y liberales”. 5. All quotes and information from Carlos Arze are from author’s interview. 6. Iriarte, “El Gas: Exportar o Industrializar?”, p. 17. 7. Iriarte, “El Gas: Exportar o Industrializar?”, p. 8-10, 72-73, 84-87/Echazu A. “El Gas No Regala” Ed. Liberacion, Un. Nac. Siglo XX. 2003. 8. Iriarte, “El Gas: Exportar o Industrializar?”, p. 37, 89-93



**Change for Children is working on a project with KNH Bolivia to provide vocational training and popular education programming for child workers in the silver mines of Potosí. Children begin working in the mines in the region as young as age 10 and are forced to work in dangerous and contaminated worksites for \$4.00 per day.**

PHOTO FROM <http://www.johnkaplan.com/pages/exhibitions.html>

# Water: Global Commodity or Human Right?

Where did Doña Luisa go in the middle of the night? inquired my non-Spanish speaking companion as we devoured the warm tortillas Doña Luisa placed in front of us.

The sound of water from the single tap serving 50 families in this Nicaraguan neighborhood woke her up. The tap, most often dry, was left open so residents could hear the water even if it came at two o'clock in the morning.

A decade later, privatization of water utilities threatens to price this inadequate water service beyond the reach of poor families. Water became a commodity in 1989 when Margaret Thatcher privatized England's publicly-owned water and sewage authorities to make these services more efficient and competitive. Instead, from 1989 to 1994, the quality of water service fell dramatically and the average water bill increased by 55 per cent, twice as fast as the rate of inflation. Of the £10 billion in price increases consumers paid between 1989 and 1998, ninety-five per cent went to shareholders.

Political ploys to privatize public utilities threaten access to water worldwide. The World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and regional development banks make privatization a condition for financing water projects.

Privatization is not the answer. Argentina, Indonesia, the Philippines, South Africa, Ghana, Nepal, Niger, Chile, Peru, Brazil, and dozens of other countries with privatized water systems learned the hard way that private companies do not invest the money promised into water utilities. Water bills increase. The poor are disconnected and forced to use contaminated water from rivers and lakes. In South Africa, 10 million people have had their water cut off since 1994. Poor communities continue to experience sporadic water supply while rich communities enjoy water on a 24-hr basis.

In 1999, in Cochabamba, Bolivia, within months of signing a 40-year



PHOTO BY LEE HICKLING

contract, private water companies raised water bills by 35 to 400 per cent. A teacher living on a pension of \$80/month saw his water bill rise from \$5 to \$25. When water wars mobilized over 100,000 people, the contract was cancelled and the operation of water supplies returned to the public utility.

Nicaragua faces the same prospect. The IMF and the World Bank are forcing Nicaragua, one of the most indebted countries, to pay off its debt by auctioning public assets, including water utilities. The Inter-American Development Bank will "unbundle" or separate parts of the Nicaraguan Water Utility. Large multinational water companies get the cities with the most profit-making potential. The public sector is left with unprofitable rural water systems and poor marginal areas such as the 400,000 people who live in conditions of extreme poverty in illegally occupied settlements around Managua. "Unbundling" will destroy the public system's ability to subsidize operations in poorer areas.

In Nicaragua, Change for Children works with the Centro Humboldt on a campaign of information, popular political pressure and legislative measures to promote water as a human right. The campaign is a formidable challenge

given that the forces for privatization include powerful multinational corporations legitimized by their prominent role within the UN. These forces generally exclude women, farmers, directors of successful public water utilities and other community stakeholders in decision making processes.

**Centro Humboldt needs our support** to work with NGOs who have successfully confronted privatization. Public-Public Partnerships will enable even the poorest and most indebted countries to maintain control over their water and sewage facilities and choose for themselves the solutions that will ensure access to safe and affordable water. Water is not a commodity. It is a human right.

Over the last two years, CFCA has worked with Centro Humboldt to supply 25 rural Nicaraguan communities with water for drinking, household use and gardens. Many of you have contributed generously towards the Nicaragua Well Project. While Centro Humboldt's new project isn't as tangible, it is even more crucial since the privatization of water will affect the entire population of Nicaragua. Please consider designating part of your donation this year to Centro Humboldt's Water Action Project.

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**Cecily Mills** holds a PhD in Microbiology from the University of Alberta. She spent seven years in Central America with Witness for Peace and with the Volunteer Missionary Movement. Cecily is a past board member and committed volunteer at Change for Children Association.

## Re-nationalization and Privatization Critical Questions:

1. How will countries invest the funds to benefit the citizens in the best way?
2. Will or is state control of resources be more beneficial to the people than corporate control?
3. What is the cost of re-nationalization? How will state governments with small budgets deal with the cost of maintaining structure and infrastructure of production given that most private companies have not invested in infrastructure?
4. How will indigenous rights and environmental rights be protected?



# THE RIGHT TO

5. Who controls volume of production and price of resources?
6. What influence will re-nationalization and privatization have over Latin American regional agreements and regional integration that is beneficial to communities and human rights?

### The Central American Free Trade Agreement

(known as CAFTA) is an expansion of NAFTA to five Central American nations (Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica and Nicaragua), and the Dominican Republic. It was signed May 28, 2004, and passed through the U.S. House of Representatives by one vote in the middle of the night by the U.S. Congress on July 27, 2005. El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, and the Dominican Republic have also approved the agreement. Costa Rica has yet to vote on the agreement.

CAFTA is a piece in the **FTAA** jigsaw puzzle, and is based on the same failed neoliberal **NAFTA** model, which has caused the "race to the bottom" in labor and environmental standards and promotes privatization and deregulation of key public services. Due to strong resistance by several of the CAFTA countries' parliaments who, when confronted by the reality of having to make the far-reaching changes to public health and other domestic laws required by the agreement are reluctant to actually implement the deal, the Bush administration was forced to delay the planned January 1, 2006 implementation.

### WATER:

- Up until the 1990s, water and sewerage services in most countries were a state/ public responsibility. Since the mid 1990s developing countries have been encouraged to privatize water and water services through some form of private sector participation or partnership
- 1998 – Chile begins to privatize its largest water companies
- 2000 – Bechtel leaves Bolivia after massive protests demand their contract be cancelled
- 2005 - El Salvador's SETA water workers' union prevented a bill that would have transferred water and sewage management from national to municipal control, in accordance with conditions of an Inter-American Development Bank loan. SETA still faces opposition from proponents of municipal management.
- 2005 - Over 15,000 protestors assembled along the Inter-American Highway in Guatemala over parliament's proposed pro-privatization water laws. Following the massive protests by members of the indigenous group K'iché, the Guatemalan Congress decided to suspend discussion of the laws.
- 2006 - Argentina terminated its contract with Aguas Argentinas/Suez to supply drinking water to Buenos Aires. A new group called Aysa, which is 90% owned by the state and 10% by workers, will take over the contract.
- CAFTA allows countries to "opt-out" of the public services of their choosing. Nicaragua and Honduras have exempted water from CAFTA's rules.
- Two French multinational corporations, Vivendi des Eaux and Suez Lyonnaise, dominate the private water sector with projects in over 120 countries.





PHOTO from www.ballotdirt.com

# RESOURCES

## OIL AND GAS:

- 1970s – Chile became Latin America's privatization pioneer as the Pinochet regime begins to sell national assets
- 1971-91 - Texaco routinely dumped toxic wastes from its oil operations into Ecuador's Amazon. 2.5 million acres of rainforest were lost and indigenous peoples of the region continue to suffer cancer rates 30 times higher than in non-oil producing areas of Ecuador.
- 1980's and 90's – Argentina privatized its national oil company, Venezuela opened its petroleum sector, Brazil amended its constitution and dismantled the government petroleum monopoly.
- 2004 – Supported by the IDB and US-based Hunt Oil, Peru began the Camisea gas pipeline project. The pipeline ruptured five times, resulting in protest from indigenous communities and environmental groups. The project is currently stalled.
- 2006 - Venezuelan government seized 32 oilfields from private companies. Venezuela is the world's fifth-largest oil exporter with the largest reserves outside of the Mideast.
- May 16, 2006 – Drilling by Occidental Petroleum is suspended in Ecuador due to pressure by indigenous groups. PetroEcuador the national oil company is taking over the operation in June, 2006.
- Under NAFTA rules, Canada must export two thirds of its energy production to the United States or Mexico; almost two-thirds of production must be exported, even if Canada faces shortages.
- The tar sands are the largest contributor to the growth of greenhouse-gas emissions in Canada because so much natural gas is used to make tar sands oil. Tar sands production is scheduled to triple in the next 10 years. (Gibson & Laxer, 2006).

## MINING:

- Late 1990's – significant changes in the legislation regulating the mining sector permit increases in foreign mining activities in Latin America. Legislation was 'modernized', which opened the door to multiple transnational companies, exploration, and exploitation concession and licenses.
- Changes in mining legislation have often occurred in time periods after natural disasters occur such as Hurricane Mitch in Nicaragua and Honduras, where legislative changes took place in the guise of rebuilding or reconstruction efforts by International Financial Institutions
- 1992 - Mining laws in Mexico and Peru were developed by representatives from key representatives from private institutions and government. The World Bank played a key role by providing expertise regarding the overall framework.
- 1997 - Bolivian mining laws were drafted by similar experts from the industry. The World Bank had an active role through technical and legal advisors and provided feedback on drafts.
- 2000 - Ecuadorian mining laws were similarly influenced with significant World Bank involvement that sees large investments in the exploitation of natural resources as beneficial for the development of local communities. This is equated or defined as Poverty Reduction Strategies.
- In 2003, the proportion of the world's total exploration planned for Canada was roughly 22%.
- Canada's minerals and metals industry has involved approximately 12 percent of all Canadian direct investment abroad (\$50 billion).
- Approximately 1200 Aboriginal communities in Canada are located within 200 kilometers of minerals and metals activities. On a global level indigenous peoples are disproportionately affected by global mining activities.

# FOOD FOR THOUGHT



**“We are the people who have the right to say what happens to the world”**

– Olive

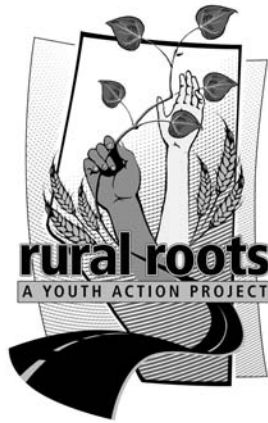
**“There are people here who have gone out and done the stuff that we are talking about. Now that we are more aware, hopefully we’ll go out and do that too”**

– Amy

**“I remember the feeling of community happening, of democracy brewing”**

– Justin

# RURAL ROOTS YO



Change for Children held its 2nd annual Youth leadership conference March 31-April 2, 2006 in Nordegg Alberta and 95 youth participants and 25 youth presenters attended. The theme of this year’s conference was Global Voices; Human Rights and Global Citizenship. Please contact Change for Children if you would like to make a donation to support the Rural Roots Youth Action Project or 2006/07 Global Education Programming.

*Zach Zimmel is a grade 12 student at Camrose Composite High School and assisted to organize both the 2005 and 2006 Rural Roots Youth Conference. Zach was the closing speaker and is an example of Alberta youth taking action on local and global issues.*

For most of my life, I have lived in the Daysland/Camrose region of Central Alberta. So when we say ‘Rural Roots,’ this is as rural as it gets. My hometown was extremely small with only a few hundred people. This town was where I first got my start when dealing with community groups. Growing up, I was part of every community club you could think of and I became very involved that way. It wasn’t until high school when I really began to find myself and discover my passions.

It was the beginning of grade eleven and I was walking down the hallways of my school when I saw a poster for an upcoming Human Rights Conference at the University of Alberta. A friend and I signed up for the conference thinking that it would be nothing more than a day off of school and a fun trip to Edmonton. We couldn’t have been more wrong as the weekend turned out to be one of the most life changing events of my life.

At the conference, I signed up for a workshop about sweatshops and global justice. Here, I met the coordinator of the workshop, Fiona Cavanaugh, who worked for an organization known as Change for Children. She was the first person to ever mention the term ‘social justice’ to me and she really inspired my friend and I to go back to our town and try to bring these new ideas with us. So we went back to our school prepared to change the world and to do it fast. We started the Daysland Social Justice Club the following week and our initial plan was to get a group of high school kids together and raise twenty thousand dollars in a few months and have a water well installed in Africa and maybe even send one of us down there to help build it. We soon realized that this goal was a bit unrealistic for a few kids with little experience from a small school in a small town.



The Rural Roots Youth Action Project gratefully acknowledges the support of:





# YOUTH CONFERENCE 2006

This is where my first lesson that I want to share with you comes in. Goals: they are important to set but it is crucial that you be realistic in doing so. It is ok to start small! I know you have all heard that before but it is true! Any positive contribution to society is just that and there is no shame in 'starting small!' A quote from the book *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho reads, "there is one thing that makes a dream impossible to achieve: the fear of failure." I think that this is one of the most important things to understand when doing social justice work. I am so glad that, as a club, we did not give up when we realised that our initial goal was not going to be achieved.

Throughout the year I kept in contact with Fiona from CFCA. Fiona informed me that she was planning the first annual Rural Roots conference and asked if I would be interested in joining a steering committee and help with the conference planning. I jumped right in and tried to help but realized I knew very little about NGOs. Looking back, I was probably learning more throughout this process than I was helping but it really taught me a lot

about a realm of human rights and social justice that I never knew existed.

At the conference, **I met other rural youth like myself who knew that they wanted to help but did not know how or what they could be doing.** It was at this conference that I really felt empowered for the first time to go forward and apply myself so that I could better help the world. I decided to start entering public speaking competitions and talk about issues such as AIDS and poverty to spread awareness. Public speaking was where opportunities really started to present themselves. I entered



competitions through school boards, rotary clubs, the 4H program and anywhere else that I could find them. After forcing the audience to listen to whatever I had to say, I was sometimes rewarded with awards or prizes. Through public speaking I was awarded with a two-week trip to the United Nations, Ottawa, Washington D.C., and New York City, and invited to attend an international school in Vancouver.

If you only listen to one thing I say today I want it to be this, to follow your dreams and your passions. What I want to reiterate is how, as humans, it is our duty to follow our dreams and do what it is that we believe to be right! When I look out into this room and think about how much power we have as youth, it really gives me hope for the future of our planet. I have talked to a lot of you throughout the weekend and have heard some of the amazing things that you guys are doing in your communities and I really urge you guys to keep going and not lose hope. We have more power than any generation before us has ever had at a time when it is needed most.. *So please, don't be afraid. Go into your communities with the knowledge that you do in fact have the power to change the world.*

## EDUCATOR'S CORNER



## RESOURCES

The information provided in this issue of *Building Bridges* has been compiled with the help of the following resources.

### Upside down world

[www.upsidedownworld.org](http://www.upsidedownworld.org)

### Quest for Peace - Resources on Debt and Trade

[quest.quixote.org/trade/reports](http://quest.quixote.org/trade/reports)

### Public Citizen [www.citizen.org](http://www.citizen.org)

### Rights Action [www.rightsaction.org](http://www.rightsaction.org)

### Counterpunch [www.counterpunch.org](http://www.counterpunch.org)

### BBC News [www.news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/4830720.stm](http://www.news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/4830720.stm)

### Portland Central America Solidarity Committee [www.pcasc.net](http://www.pcasc.net)

### Food and water watch

[www.foodandwaterwatch.org](http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org)

### Resource Centre for the Americas [www.americas.org](http://www.americas.org)

### Article - Water Privatization for El Salvador [www.ww4report.com/node/1667/print](http://www.ww4report.com/node/1667/print)

### Spanish Resources:

#### El País [www.elpais.com.uy](http://www.elpais.com.uy)

#### El mundo al revés

[www.elmundoalreves.org](http://www.elmundoalreves.org)

**The 2006/07 Rural Roots Youth Action Project is underway with the support of CIDA, LEE Global Education Fund, Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation.**

# OUR PROJECTS: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

## Change for Children's Contribution to the Global Campaign for Education

Global Action Week, which took place in the last week of April 2006, saw international attention turn towards the global education crisis. UNESCO's new research announced a much greater than previously anticipated teacher shortfall. **18 million more teachers are needed** if every child is to receive a quality education. 100 million children are still being denied the opportunity of going to school. Millions more are sitting in over-crowded classrooms for only a few hours a day. Without urgent action these children will remain in poverty and at far greater risk of HIV infection. For more information on the global campaign visit ([www.campaignforeducation.org](http://www.campaignforeducation.org)).

Change for Children is responding by participating in school construction projects in Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador and Sierra Leone through our "class action program". In Nicaragua, a four room primary school is currently under construction in the community of Pamkawas in the BOSAWAS



Biosphere reserve in northern Nicaragua. Here, access to education is extremely limited - nationally only 79 per cent of primary-school-age children are enrolled and this number drops significantly in the Miskito indigenous communities of BOSAWAS to under 45%. In addition, the quality and relevance of the Nicaraguan education system is in question - especially in isolated areas like BOSAWAS which have largely been ignored by the Department of Education and only 19 per cent of children complete primary schooling.

**The primary school in Pamkawas** will provide primary school education for 320 children who are currently not attending school and an additional 120

that currently attend school in a sub-standard facility (see photo of the delapidated school above). Primary school education has been the single most important factor in improving and diversifying opportunities for the children of Nicaragua - especially in isolated areas like BOSAWAS. BOSAWAS, along with its sister reserve in southern Honduras, form the largest tract of tropical forest north of the Amazon basin. Known as the "Lungs of Central America," this 730,000-hectare reserve is a critical habitat for hundreds of species of birds, animals, plants, and insects.

As stewards of this precious forest, the Miskito people are in need of educational and capacity building initiatives that help them to manage the forest reserve.

The Pamkawas school construction project is generously supported by Kindness in Action, the Wild Rose Foundation and Change for Children Donors - if you are interested in contributing to our school building program in Central America, please indicate 'class action program' on the memo line of your cheque or on the donation form at the back of this newsletter.

**In Sierra Leone**, which ranks 176 among the 177 nations on the UN's 'Human Development Index' only 29.6% of the population has had the privilege of attending school. The heroic efforts of Memonatu Dura Kamera, who immigrated to Canada three years ago with her seven children from Sierra Leone, have resulted in the construction of a 9-room school block in

## A Tribute to Santos Acuña



For those of you who remember the drummer from the 'Lights of the Future' band that visited Alberta in 1998, we regret to inform you that Santos Acuña was killed in a workplace accident in Managua on April 16th while working with his father as an electrician's apprentice.

In earlier years, Santos was the beneficiary of our cultural programming with INPRHU (the Institute of Human Promotion in Managua) and received musical training through the program. After participating in INPRHU's music program, Santos went on to study at the National Arts Institute and subsequently worked as a professional musician.

The Acuña family has asked that, as a tribute to Santos, we encourage our donors to contribute to INPRHU's cultural programs which made such a huge difference in Santos' life and provided him with many opportunities for growth and happiness.

## ONE WORLD BEAT 2006 at the Winspear - a huge success!

The Edmonton arts community gathered together on March 18th to Celebrate Change for Children's 30th Anniversary in Song. Almost 1000 people turned out to see the amazing performances and view the 30th Anniversary photo exhibit which documented our amazing history of community development and global education work that has touched the lives of thousands.

Hank and Tillie Zyp were in attendance at the event and enjoyed the show immensely.



### One World Beat 2007:

We are already planning the 2007 OWB event including looking for **event sponsors**. If you would like information on sponsorship options please contact Shelaine at Change for Children Association. Watch for details about One World Beat 2007 in upcoming issues of Building Bridges.



Romano Village to replace an old, makeshift school that burnt down during the war. Volunteers from Romano were joined by other volunteers from five neighbouring villages to build the **Alberta Canada Primary School**, which now services the six communities. If you would like to contribute to the expansion of this school and its programs, please indicate "Alberta-Canada primary school – Sierra Leone" on the memo line of your cheque or on the donation form at the back of this newsletter.



### Hurricane STAN Relief Efforts in El Salvador and Guatemala

Since Hurricane Stan hit Guatemala and El Salvador in October 2005, Change for Children has been working with our partners in these countries to facilitate medium term relief efforts which include support for agricultural initiatives, community infrastructure repair and reconstruction and capacity building in environmental preservation. Change for Children sincerely thanks the local Guatemalan and Salvadoran ethnic communities for their collaboration and the Wild Rose Foundation for their generous financial support of our Hurricane Relief Projects in Guatemala and El Salvador.



### Intern Update



In 2005/2006 Lynn Sutankayo was Change for Children's CIDA Intern. Lynn worked at the CFCA office for five months before traveling to Honduras where she worked with Familias Saludables, an HIV AIDS support program for mothers and children. Lynn worked in HIV testing, counseling and community education. Lynn thanks CFCA and CIDA for an amazing experience.

With CFCA support, Familias Saludables has started a stigma-reduction and employment project for women living with HIV AIDS. Local health workers train women as educators and public speakers in the field of HIV AIDS and human rights in the workplace. This project aims to raise awareness, reduce discrimination and create employment opportunities for persons living with AIDS.

# EVENTS UPDATE

## Change for Children Garage Sale

Friday, June 9, 4:30 am - 8:30 pm  
 Saturday, June 10, 9:00-4:00 pm  
 15440-108 Avenue  
 Please contact Patsy Ho (780-489-7603) if you have donation items and to arrange a drop off time. We will NOT be accepting clothes or items that are in need of repair

## Annual General Meeting

Saturday, June 17, 10 am to 2 pm  
 Room 222, Sacred Heart School  
 (9624-108 Avenue)  
 If you are interested in joining the Board of Directors contact Lorraine at 448-1505.

## Father's Day Brunch

Sunday, June 18 at 12:00 noon  
 Upper Crust Café, 10909 86 Ave  
 Tickets are \$40.00 (25.00 tax receipt). Children under 6 are free.  
 Tickets available at Earth's General Store or the Change for Children Office

## Doben Family in Concert

Wednesday, June 27, 7:30 pm  
 Robertson Wesley United Church  
 (10209-123st Street)  
 Tickets \$15.00 and proceeds go to Rainbow of Hope to support their projects for street children.

## Annual Fundraiser Dinner and Dance

Friday, September 22, 2006  
 University of Alberta's Faculty Club  
 This year we are planning to add a dance to the traditional dinner and silent auction. Watch for details in upcoming newsletters.

## Change for Children Launches Electronic Newsletter

This June CFCA will launch a monthly E-Newsletter to communicate and connect with members. We will send updates of programming and promote upcoming events.

## Do we have your email address?

If you are interested in receiving this E-Newsletter then call or email Change for Children and spread the word to others who might be interested.

## Towards a More Sustainable Organization...

In keeping with our mandate to 'maintain an integral, vital and stable organization', Change for Children is currently considering an increase in our administration fees.

In recent years, charities like Change for Children have seen a significant increase in administrative workload due to increasing regulations from the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and the Alberta Government. At the same time, despite heightened reporting requirements, CIDA has decreased its contribution to project administration from 15 to 12 percent.

For these reasons, our Board of Directors is proposing an increase in our administration fee from its current level of 7.5 percent to 12 percent. This increase is required for us to ensure that donations are spent responsibly and that we maintain adequate administrative capacity.

Change for Children remains committed to ensuring that the maximum amount of funding is sent to our southern partner organizations and when government or foundation funding makes it possible, the administration fees on donations may be lower than 12 percent.

If you would like to send us your comments about this fee increase, we would appreciate hearing from you! Thank you for your continued support!

### Please support CFCA's Important Work with a CHARITABLE DONATION

All donors who contribute \$10 or more automatically gain membership in Change for Children Association and will receive our *Building Bridges* newsletter three times annually.

#### Please find enclosed a tax-deductible donation to be used in the following areas:

- \$\_\_\_\_\_ Undesignated - to be used as needed by Change for Children
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ General project account (supporting a variety of projects as required)
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ Supporting projects in the country of \_\_\_\_\_
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ A specific project: \_\_\_\_\_
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ Change for Children's Global Education Program in Canada
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ The Change for Children Endowment Fund
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ **Total Amount Enclosed** *Please make cheques payable to Change for Children*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Pre-Authorized Payment Plan Option

I/We authorize Change for Children Association to begin Automatic monthly withdrawals from my/our bank account as specified on the enclosed cheque marked "VOID." This authority is to remain in effect until further notification from myself/ourselves or Change for Children.

Please make a withdrawal in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month on the \_\_\_\_\_th day of each month.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature(s) of Account Holder

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date Signed

Change for Children Association #222, 9624 - 108 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 1A4 • [www.changeforchildren.org](http://www.changeforchildren.org)

The production and mailing of this quarterly publication, which we consider an educational tool, represents an investment by Change for Children of \$10,850 and we expect to raise from donors on an annual basis the sum of \$250,000. Proceeds will be used as designated by donor on reply form.