

Building Bridges

A CHANGE FOR CHILDREN PUBLICATION • MAY 2000

Painting Peace

Youth From El Salvador, Nicaragua & Canada Share their Visions for Creating a Culture of Peace



By Ron Berezan
Change for Children
Education Coordinator

Youth from El Salvador search for hope in a society where violent death rates are now higher than during the country's civil war. Nicaraguan youth struggle to overcome the violence of poverty that denies them access to basic schooling, medical care, housing, and other essential needs. Young Canadians confront the fact that our consumption patterns contribute to global poverty and threaten the ecological integrity of the planet.

Thankfully, youth from each of these three countries are growing up without the shadow of war clouding their daily lives. Yet are these young people growing up in true "peace"?



kids in Esteli mural painting workshop

The crux of the question is in , of course, what we mean by "peace".

Change for Children is excited to be embarking on a creative project that will encourage young people and their communities from Central America and Canada to explore this question through the visual arts. The **Painting Peace** project will be officially launched on Friday, June 2nd at a special celebration at the Citadel Theatre in Edmonton. In collaboration with our partner organization, Talleres de

Muralismo ("Muralism Workshops") in Esteli, Nicaragua, this project will create the space for youth to share their visions of how we can collectively move towards a "Culture of Peace" as set forth by the United Nations and a group of Nobel Peace Prize laureates.

Nine Alberta youth are currently preparing to travel to Central America for the summer where they will work with young people there in the first phase of this project.

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kid in mural workshop

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Change for Children is Buzzing with Activity this Summer! - Meet our New Staff !

Change for Children/CIDA Intern Kyle Fulton:

!Hola Perú, here I come! This last month working with the group in the office has enabled me to develop a true understanding of how dedicated and inspired everyone is to facilitating sustainable development projects in Latin America.

I was born and raised in Edmonton but have often left to go traveling. My adventures have taken me to Central and South America, Africa, Europe, and across Canada. Recently, I graduated from Latin American studies at the University of Alberta, an area of study I thoroughly enjoyed. However, I find it even more thrilling that now I have the opportunity to get a hands-on education.

On the 5th of July I will be heading to Lima, Perú to join our partners, Centro de Investigacion y Desarrollo de Programas de Salud (CIDEPSA). CIDEPSA supports a variety of health projects in an area called Carabayllo on the outskirts of Lima. The capacity of my work will vary from participating in health projects and fairs, to providing administrative support for CIDEPSA. I very much look forward to finally meeting the people and places I have been reading so much about. !Hasta Luego! And I promise to keep you all posted on all my great adventures!

Change for Children/CIDA Intern Yamit More:

What can I say? I'm scared, exhilarated, anxious and exited all at the same time. What a fantastic opportunity. I'm going to El Salvador and Nicaragua. Yes me!

I began working in the office in April. This is a fabulous place full of supportive people with a real enthusiasm for fostering change and solidarity for the people of Latin America. Myself, I was born in Mexico and moved to Canada at the age of six. I am currently a student at the U of A and on the verge of graduating (only a few more essays!). Needless to say this next month will be one of transition and adventure.

I'm leaving for El Salvador on June 10th where I will spend three weeks in an agricultural co-operative called Tierra Blanca that is located in an area called Usulután. After getting settled I will go to meet this year's youth tour in Managua, Nicaragua. I will be joining the tour for five weeks as we travel around Central America, after which I will return to my new home in Tierra Blanca.

My goals for working in the Usulután co-operatives include bringing the youth together in a creative environment. To facilitate an artistic group (theatre, dance, music etc. whatever the group desires to pursue) that will serve as an avenue for self expression and as a place where youth can be heard. I have extensive experience in popular and guerrilla theatre, dance, music, and performance art. I have been involved in several theatre companies around Alberta and Australia, and through these groups I've had the opportunity to work with youth and facilitate collective creation. Well, here I go! I promise to keep in touch and keep you updated on my adventures.

Change for Children Summer Staff Person: Jania Teare:

This will be my first summer living in Edmonton, and I'm very excited to spend my time working at Change for Children. I grew up in Calgary and came to Edmonton two years ago to go attend the U of A. In September I will be entering my third year of a BA program. I first heard about Change for Children when I was a high school student living in Calgary. A theatre director, who was both my teacher and my friend, told me of his experiences meeting street children while visiting projects in Brazil. He told me about Change for Children and about the important solidarity work that they are involved in. I knew that it was an organization that I wanted to learn more about, and when I started school here I came into the office and find out what volunteer opportunities were available. Luckily for me, the opportunities have been endless. I left the office that first day with an application in my hand for the 1999 Nicaragua Youth Tour and subsequently

spent three weeks in Nicaragua. We visited projects, stayed with families, met some amazing people, and I gained both a better understanding of the term solidarity, and a greater appreciation for the work being done in the name of solidarity here at Change for Children. When I returned to Edmonton I was offered another exiting opportunity to get involved and to learn more about work being done for social justice. I was the assistant coordinator for a six-week global justice education tour, "Voices from the South". The project involved six youth, from the cultural program of a street market project in Managua, Nicaragua, touring Western Canada with their presentation of clowning, dance, and theatre. It has been an amazing year for me, and I am looking forward to a great summer filled with new experiences here at the office.

Change for Children Summer Staff Person: Gingie Welsh:

Agent Files: #21743 **Name:** Gingie Welsh
Recognizance work: Cuba, Ireland, Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, Thailand, Malaysia, Korea, Europe, Morocco, Tunisia, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic **Expertise:** Political Science

Message relayed: Agent Welsh, you have been given this mission because of your previous experience with Change For Children. Your undercover work as a volunteer with Change For Children has provided you with the background to work on this mission.

Your mission will be to organize *Instruments of Change*, the September 9th fundraiser. You will be able to use your fund raising knowledge that you obtained during your work with Canada World Youth to plant the event and book bands. From your years studying political science, you will use mystical diplomacy to charm organizations into donating items for the silent auction. You must not fail. There will be secret agents to aid you along the way disguised as volunteers. Convince these agents to volunteer to help make this mission possible. Watch out for those deadly paper cuts, and sticky tongue from licking envelopes.

Painting Peace

A Youth of the Americas Mural Project

continued from page 1

The Canadian and Central American youth will spend time in both Nicaragua and El Salvador, painting large public peace murals and dialoging with local youth on the themes of respect for human rights, living non-violently, social justice, valuing diversity, caring for the earth, and community solidarity - the six faces of the "Culture of Peace".

mural painting in Esteli Ron Bercezan



A second dimension of the project is the creation of an international youth peace mural on canvas panels painted by groups of youth from each of the three participating countries. These 1 by 1.5 meter panels will be united in one patchwork quilt expression of youth solidarity and hope for a peaceful future. This collaborative work of art will be exhibited throughout Central America and western Canada and may be photographed and published in print form at the conclusion of the project.

Young people from throughout western Canada are currently invited to share their creative vision by painting a panel for this unique international work of art. Canvas

panels and information packages are available through the Change for Children office.

In the fall of this year, a delegation of Central American youth will travel to Alberta to continue the process of dialogue and public education on the "Culture of Peace" themes. A location for a public, outdoor peace mural is currently being negotiated for downtown Edmonton and will be painted jointly by Central American and Canadian youth. The international youth leadership team will hold workshops in schools, churches and other community centers exhibiting the canvas mural and generating the creation of additional mural panels. The project will culminate in a week long "Youth Summit" and public celebration in late November of this year.

While the issues that youth from Canada and youth from Central America face on a daily basis may differ, they are together charged with shaping a future that rejects the patterns of war and violence in all there forms that continue to cause untold suffering to people and to the planet's natural systems. True peace, we are advised by the Nobel Laureates, is far more than the absence of war. We look forward to sharing with you and your communities the colours and images of peace that come



kids in mural workshop Lorraine Swift

from the lives and the hearts of the hundreds of youth that participate in this process.

The activities of the project are being documented on a detailed web-site which we invite you to visit at www.changeforchildren.org/paintingpeace. We would also love to speak with you directly about how your community might participate in this exciting new educational initiative. Change for Children thanks the Canadian International Development Agency, the Clifford E. Lee foundation, the Wild Rose Foundation and the Winspear Foundation for funding support for this project.

Painting Peace Canadian Delegation Frank Bessai



kids in Esteli mural painting workshop Jania Teare

Reflections from Washington:

What do we learn from protests? —

By Susan Spronk

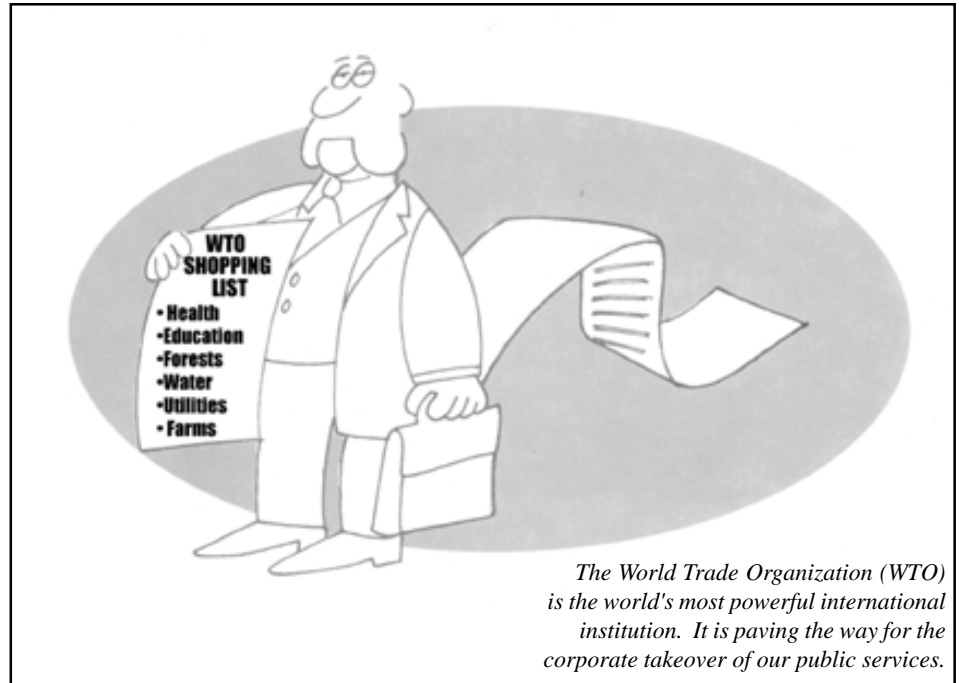
My first introduction to the Capitol, center of world power, was under the cover of darkness. At 4:30 AM on Sunday morning, I dragged myself out of bed, put on my overalls, stuffed a vinegar-soaked rag into my pocket and stumbled out of the door to join my "affinity group." Our goal of the day was to block delegates from entering the meetings of the IMF and World Bank. Having no other recourse for action we were going to stop the meetings with our bodies.

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Months of planning had gone into organizing the showdown at Washington. Protestors had learned from their experience at Seattle and this time we were much better prepared. The week before the meetings there were numerous teach-ins about non-violent direct action, other forms of civil disobedience, and many issues related to globalization. Those who chose to take "direct action" were instructed how to protect themselves against pepper spray, tear gas and what do if arrested.

Protestors, however, were not the only ones who learned from Seattle. This time, police were also much better prepared. Determined not to let activists stop the meetings they called in every level of law enforcement: municipal police, state police and the National Guard.

By about 10:00 AM we got word on the lines that the meetings had gone ahead. The police had succeeded in breaking through one of the blockades. The media reported that protestors had failed.



Did the protest fail, however? Many people suggest that such protests are simply a show and do not really "get anything done." The protests at Washington, however, did succeed in attracting a lot of media attention. Many more people have heard of the IMF and World Bank after Washington.

At the taping of a CBC news show about the protests, Vandana Shiva, guru of the anti-globalization movement, commented that we should take heart in the fact that at the meetings of the IMF two years ago there were 20 protestors. At the meetings in Seattle there were 200. At Washington there were around 10,000. A growing movement against neo-liberal "globalization" is underfoot.

This movement is strong in its diversity. Anarchists, environmentalists, union members, human-rights crusaders and students were united against the economic injustice of the world order and the damaging policies of the IMF and World Bank.

The "movement" faces many challenges, however. As Shiva noted, such protests

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are important because they are public displays of resistance. The real work, however, is to be done between these moments.

Washington may have been an inspiring display of resistance, but critics tell some truth when they say that the protestors at Washington did not offer any alternatives to globalization. In the face of growing concentration of the power of capital, small spaces of resistance - our families, our schools and our places of work - are where we must ground our movement.

*Former Change for Children intern
Susan Spronk is now working on a
Master's Degree in Political Science at
York University in Toronto.*

Renewal of the Earth: the Lubicon Struggle for Land

By Jania Teare

Located in northern Alberta, the territory belonging to the Cree of the Lubicon Lake Indian Nation is currently the subject of a major land dispute. The Lubicon did not lose their territory in war nor sign any treaties. Although they were promised a reserve in 1939, the Lubicon Cree have spent the past sixty years attempting to gain official recognition of their right to the land. They were able to continue their traditional way of life through hunting and trapping until 1979, when oil and gas reserves were discovered on their land. Mass drilling began within a fifteen-mile radius of the Little Buffalo community without Lubicon consent or consultation. The members of the Lubicon Cree received no benefits from the oil companies, which made over \$8 billion through use of the land.

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Welfare dependency within the community went from 10% to 90% as industrial development continued. Presence of the oil and gas industry also coincided with increases in suicide rates, alcoholism, and various medical problems. Today there are hundreds of oil wells on Lubicon land, and there are concerns about adverse health effects of the toxins emitted from gas flaring at the oil wells and contamination from the nearby sour gas plant.

Problems concerning use of Lubicon land intensified in 1988, when the province of Alberta granted a multi-national pulp and paper manufacturer, Daishowa, a lease for "timber rights" on almost the entire Lubicon area. Although the United Nations Human Rights Committee found Canada to be in violation of the human rights of the Lubicon people, no action was taken by Canada to settle the land claim or to stop Daishowa's exploitation of Lubicon land. Organizations such as Friends of the Lubicon (FOL) and Amitie Lubicons-

Quebec (ALQ) brought the Lubicon land issues to the attention of the public, and support for their struggle resulted in national boycotts of Daishowa products. After ten years of public pressure, Daishowa agreed to stop logging on Lubicon territory until the land rights had been settled. The government of Alberta proceeded to invite new proposals from businesses interested in extracting the resources in the Lubicon area, rather than put a hold on new projects until the land claim was resolved. The provincial and federal governments, who are profiting from the extraction of over \$1 million worth of oil from Lubicon land daily, seem to be placing the Lubicon people in a position that will lead to welfare dependency for the community.



The blatant disregard for the Lubicon people and their sixty-year fight for land recognition is a disgrace on the part of the provincial and the federal government. The slow pace of the land negotiations is a serious concern, as outside companies continue to profit from the land at the expense of the Lubicon people. The Lubicon people are living in poverty, since 1979 the average annual income from trapping has dropped from \$5000 to less than \$400, and the land resources are profiting multinational corporations rather than the Lubicon people. In 1988 an agreement was drawn up between Lubicon Chief Bernard Ominayak and then Alberta Premier Don Getty. This agreement, the Grimshaw Accord, promises the Lubicon Cree 95 square miles of reserve land. Currently there is no guarantee from the provincial government about whether the Grimshaw accord will be honoured. The government can no longer ignore the demand for settlement of Lubicon land rights. Every delay in the land settlement is another violation against the Lubicon.

The Aboriginal Rights Coalition (ARC), a

solidarity group working to transform the relationship between Aboriginal people and Canadian society, plan to launch a

Since 1979 the average annual income from trapping has dropped from \$5000 to less than \$400 and the land resources are profiting multinational corporations.

Jubilee Year III campaign on National Aboriginal Day, June 21, 2000. The campaign, which was inspired by the Canadian Ecumenical Jubilee Initiative, will educate Canadians about the importance of Aboriginal land claims. The Canadian Ecumenical Jubilee Initiative is a program that calls for churches and organizations to support movements for change throughout the world, focusing on three main themes; "Release from Bondage", "Redistribution of Wealth" and "Renewal of the Earth". The Jubilee Year III ARC campaign is based on the third theme, "Renewal of the Earth", which calls for changes such as restoration of ecosystems, achievement of land reform, and respect for Aboriginal land rights. In order to bring an Aboriginal perspective to the theme, the ARC will be distributing education and resource kits, as well as preparing a petition for Aboriginal land rights, to be sent to the federal government. The Jubilee Initiative calls for support of initiatives within Canada that strengthen respect for Aboriginal rights and resolve land claims in a just and expedient manner.

Support the Lubicon people in their struggle by educating yourself, raising awareness, and writing letters to government demanding a fair and expeditious settlement of Lubicon land rights.

Information is available from:

Lubicon Lobby Campaign

153 Laurier Ave E., Ottawa, ON K1N 6N8
Tel: 613-526-3871 Fax: 613-526-9093

For more information about Friends of the Lubicon, visit: <http://www.tao.ca/~fol>

For info about the Aboriginal Rights Coalition and their Jubilee Year III campaign, visit: <http://home.istar.ca/~arc/>

Voices from the South a Great Success!

By Jania Teare

Voices from the South, the global justice education tour that took place in Canada this winter, was a great success. The project involved six Nicaraguan youth performers who spent just over five weeks performing in schools, churches and community centres across western Canada. The performances involved clowning routines, folkloric dances, and a piece of theatre that explored the experiences of Nicaraguan youth who live and work in the streets. The six youth, ranging in age from 14 to 21 years, are students of the cultural program at the Isreal Lewites street market project. The cultural program is organized by the Institute for Human Promotion (INPRHU), a partner organization of Change for Children, and is based in Managua, Nicaragua. Frank Bessai, the project coordinator for the Voices from the South tour, spent time last fall working with the youth in Nicaragua, exploring drama as a tool to empower and to educate. During their time in Canada the Nicaraguan youth were able to share the beauty of their culture with youth here, as well as raising awareness about the social problems and the poverty that children face on a daily basis in Nicaragua. They returned to Managua on April 12, after amazing many people with their performances, and making many new friends here in Canada. Frank will be heading back down to Nicaragua in June to continue working with the youth in their exploration of drama at the INPRHU street market projects.



Marion Foulds
Nicaraguan youth performing



Marion Foulds
Nicaraguan youth in traditional dance

Message from Project Coordinator Frank Bessai

To all those fine people who were involved with the **Voices From the South** project as volunteers, organizers, cooks, drivers, billets, friends, translators and audience members I would like to offer my heartiest thanks. The support and commitment of you all are what makes these kind of dreams into reality. The young Nicaraguans who participated on the tour Denis, Ana, Alfredo, Jeaneth, Yahaira and Juan Domingo indeed had the time of their lives and have been forever inspired to continue their work fighting for the rights of working children in their country and around the world. For myself, the project represents the greatest challenge and triumph of career as a dramatist and activist. My work with the street youth of Nicaragua will continue as I embark on another adventure to the land of lakes and volcanoes, this time for two years as a cooperant with CUSO to continue my work teaching theatre and music.

The Voices From The South Project is only the beginning in a long chain of future artistic projects which will help bring the message of Latin America's impoverished and marginalized children to the international stage. It was with great pride that I escorted these six youth and their popular educator Aura Lila around Western Canada. They are essentially my first students I respect them a great deal and look forward to working with them again upon my return to Nicaragua this June. I would like to extend particular thanks to my assistant Jania Teare, my graphic designer Chris Peters, my soul mate and partner Lorraine Swift, and of course all the compañeros from Change for Children who started me on this path and have supported my work solidly over the years.



David Williamson
'Gigantona' walking down Whyte Avenue during fall fundraiser to support Voices tour

Popular Education Makes Headway in the Forgotten Hills of Nicaragua

by Sophie Watson

Nicaragua is a country that is literally up for sale, Texaco and Coca Cola line the pot-holed streets. Concessions to IMF and World Bank demands that public spending be dramatically reduced to promote private industry has made health care and education in Nicaragua a privilege, not a right.

When governments cannot afford or choose to give up the responsibility for the health and well-being of their people, a state of great need and suffering arises that perpetuates through generations. When it is not economically profitable to put a hospital in a region, it does not happen-so what happens to these marginalized people and their health needs? Wanting to help deal with the health needs of the isolated communities of Nicaragua, Dr. Saul Contreras Martinez put together a health program that he can take on the road.

Their version of private enterprise has a humanitarian objective, the goal is sustainability rather than profit.

Private enterprise for social good, seems like an oxymoron in the Canadian context but in the case of Dr. Saul and the Atencion en Primaria Salud (APS), it has arisen out of third-world necessity-with no government subsidy, and no revenue, Dr. Saul and his colleagues had to create a program that could sustain itself. Their version of private enterprise has a humanitarian objective, the goal is sustainability rather than profit.

In Nicaragua, where over one million children have no access to health care or education, Dr. Saul and APS is one of the rural people's only options. Setting up clinics in poor barrios, Dr. Saul trains groups of women in medical/dental consultation, laboratory work and administration. He has started four clinics in urban areas of the country and along with his colleagues has trained health educators in 33 communities in the mountains of Nicaragua, people who would otherwise have no access to health care.

Entrepreneurship on several different levels, Dr. Saul is creating an industry of the production and distribution of natural medicine; creating self-sufficient health clinics; publishing accessible educational health manuals; providing health care and knowledge to as much of the marginalized rural population as he can; and running a restaurant whose profits help to offset the costs of medicine enabling him to charge his poor clients only the minimum necessary for him to stay in business. Change for Children has been supporting Dr. Saul's projects since 1996.

The agenda of Dr. Saul and APS has two main objectives, to set up clinics in urban areas and to run training programs for the rural population. "Until all the communities can have a doctor we will do it this way; until that time this is the only way to reach the people," Dr. Saul tells me. The health program involves going out into the rural areas, often in the mountains, recruiting 1-3 promoters and training them in primary and preventative health care, setting them up with a kit of instruments for cleaning and stitching and basic procedures, and a medical manual that is tailored to their region. The kit also provides them with some herbal and non-herbal medicines.

This project is quite revolutionary because it is comprehensive, the newly-trained promoters cover all basic health care as well as birth control. They are taught how to recognize illnesses and to differentiate between a common cold or pneumonia, or bronchitis. The manual that Saul produces and provides to promoters covers all this information. Many people in the rural areas might only have 3 years of schooling and so the diseases are explained in such way that is understandable. The manual with its large diagrams and simply-explained descriptions of basic ailments allows the promoters to diagnose and solve most common problems. The manual also provides information on local herbs that can help various conditions.

After the training is completed, Dr. Saul awards the new promoters with a certificate.

He has found that this has had truly positive results-the women feel very proud. "This was a side-effect we didn't expect as part of the program but we realized we are giving them the opportunity to gain a skill, and people give them a lot of respect because of the work they are doing especially since even the government was not able to solve their problems."

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Saul and his colleagues go visit the promoters once a month, drop off the medicine and see if they need any help. There are still many more communities that are in desperate need of the knowledge and tools that Dr. Saul's program offers but for now they will have to wait.

Dr. Saul speaks proudly of his promoters. He says that knowing the basic things, they will be able to help the whole community. "Some of the people can't read, but they can work-the problem is that no one wants to teach them. I like it. I used to go a long distance to this one community almost every two weeks and I would see 60 people, now since the promoter started working, the last time I went I saw only 5 people. She was doing the job. It was incredible! She said, 'sorry Doctor not many people came to see you today.' And I said, 'Hey don't worry.' Almost laughing, she said to me, 'I'm taking your job' "That's the idea!" I told her." And this is the ultimate dream of development work-a project that can sustain itself.

This article was produced with the support of CIDA. Sophie Watson is a freelance writer living in Edmonton, Alberta.

PeaCentury 2000: The People's Peace and Human Rights Conference

By Kyle Fulton

Wow! What an opportunity to share inspirational and constructive dialogue with like-minded people. During the week of May 1st to 7th, the International Society for Peace and Human Rights (the "Society"), in conjunction with the World Commission for Peace and Human Rights in Pakistan, held a conference at the University of Alberta to assist Non-governmental organizations (NGO) in the formation of an international association aimed at creating a focal point for a discussion on pertinent world issues concerning the environment and human rights. They chose to focus on current global concerns in these areas, with a solutions-based approach.

The Society, which was established in 1998, is comprised mainly of students and local activists whose main concerns are human rights and the environment. In the eighteen months leading up to the conference they were able to secure the attendance of 72 speakers from various

countries such as Sierra Leon, Israel, Bouganville, Tibet, and Peru, to mention just a few. Among the eminent speakers present were our very own Ron Berezan, Prem Kalia, Owens Wiwa, and Father Shay Cullen.

Among the varied topics were the environment, human rights, spirituality, women, internal oppression, aboriginal issues, and globalization.

Among the varied topics were the environment, human rights, spirituality, women, internal oppression, aboriginal issues, and globalization.

The Conference was divided into morning and afternoon sessions, and then further divided so that after each speaker's forum there was a workshop component during which the participating delegates and the speaker's focused on developing feasible

solutions, for both local and international implementation. This format was both imaginative and enterprising. It was also effective, in that it provided an environment which promoted positive action, and thus empowered the participants present. It was particularly inspiring to know that the recommendations developed in these sessions would be passed onto no less than 349 international NGO's for consideration and implementation. Many of the contributing speakers, now committed members of the Society, expressed a determination to unite the NGO's in their regions, and to put into action the future recommendations which are expected from the newly created Secretariat of the Society.

The fact that this event was solely organized by volunteers who had fund-raised the necessary \$60,000 is truly inspirational. Further, the stimulating atmosphere and the united resolve of the conference, invited the development of a consensus and a collective wisdom, out of which change will inevitably be forthcoming.

A CALL FOR ACTION: A Canadian Mining Company Clearly in the Wrong

By Gingie Welsh

In 1968 Marcopper Mining Corporation was formed, with the Philippine government owning 60 percent and Placer Dome Inc. of Vancouver owning the rest. Marcopper Mining Corporation is the single largest employer and source of most of Marinduque's revenue. Hundreds of families are dependant on Marcopper for pay checks, and thousands more on the mine's various support services.

However, since the formation of the Marcopper mine, highly toxic runoff of mine drainage has been allowed to pollute the local environment in spite of complaints by local citizens. Placer Dome's managers of the first Marcopper mine chose to use Calancan Bay for the non-stop surface disposal of mine waste and tailings.

The University of the Philippines and the Philippine Department of Health conducted medical examinations of villagers from Calancan Bay and found elevated mercury and lead levels among the children. They also noticed an increase in fatalities caused by aplastic anemia and other blood dyscrasias. Marcopper's mining is the culprit for the environmental degradation destroying the once abundant marine life, affecting the lives of the villagers who rely on the bay for food and income and creating health problems amongst the inhabitants of Calancan Bay.

Placer Dome never offered Calancan Bay villagers compensation for their loss of livelihood nor even sought to mitigate any of the negative effects of the tailings in Calancan Bay (such as drifting and blowing of tailings into villagers, rice fields and open wells).

Placer Dome's actions have been tolerated and even supported by both Prime Minister Chretien, and Philippine's President Ramos; welcoming Placer Dome to continue to operate for years to come. Due to the fact that so many families, industries and the economy are dependant upon Marcopper, they are able to get away with polluting the environment and damaging the health of citizens with mining standards below that of Canada and the Philippines.

A stand must be taken against Placer Dome for their actions abroad. Let them know that just because they are not mining on Canadian soil they are not exempt from adhering to Canadian standards. Show them that they will be held accountable for their actions. Take a stand against injustice. Write and give your opinion to:

**Mr. Joseph L. Danni Vice-President
Corporate Relations Placer Dome Inc.
Suite 1600, Bentall IV
1055 Dunsmuir Street
Vancouver, B.C. Canada, V7X 1P1**

Change for Children Library Set to Go!

By Cherie Klassen

Hanging around Change for Children lately has the effect of rejuvenating the bookworm in me. Nosing around our newly assembled library, the feeling of "too many books, too little time" surfaces, and my heart aches to curl up in my bed with a cup of tea and one of the amazing titles I've just come across. Or perhaps a bowl of popcorn and one of our recently acquired videos. With over 400 book titles and 200 movies, though, I think I have my work cut out for me. Not to mention numerous CD-Roms and the latest and greatest of radical social justice periodicals, my head swims with the plethora of choices before my eyes! Just a couple for example...

Klein leads the reader through sweatshop factories in the South, North American malls pushing the ready-to-wear branded lifestyle, and even into school bathrooms with advertisements on the stall doors.

No Logo: Taking Aim at the Brand Bullies by Naomi Klein is an engaging cultural analysis of multinational marketing and global interdependence that exposes the underhanded tactics corporations are using to homogenize our community and brand us all. Using first hand reporting, Klein leads the reader through sweatshop factories in the South, North American malls pushing the ready-to-wear branded lifestyle, and even into school bathrooms with advertisements on the stall doors. She also takes a deep look into the guerrilla movement resisting these forces in our country, tracks the reasons behind the rise of anti-corporate activism and explains why this emerging movement is a force to be reckoned with. It is an eye-opening, humorous and provocative read.

Romero (Vidmark Entertainment) on VHS starring Raul Julia chronicles the transformation of Archbishop Oscar Romero from an apolitical, complacent

priest to a committed leader of the people of El Salvador during the 1970s. It is a compelling and deeply moving look at Romero's dedication to work against the social injustice and oppression of the Salvadoran people, and his ultimate martyrdom in the hands of the military junta in 1980. This powerful film makes for an intense evening.

Intrigued? Borrowing from this library is free for current CFCA members, and \$1 per item for non-members. The lending period is 3 weeks for books, periodicals & CD-Rom, and 1 week for movies. For now, you'll have to come in and browse, but we plan to have our complete database available by email soon to check out! We are also developing a catalogue of our resource materials that will be circulated to local schools, churches and community groups – with the hope of integrating more social justice themes into curriculums!

We were able to put this library together by accessing the Michelle Huizinga

We are also developing a catalogue of our resource materials that will be circulated to local schools, churches and community groups – with the hope of integrating more social justice themes into curriculums!

Memorial Library from the former Centre for International Alternatives archives, wheeling and dealing with Michael at Earth's General Store for his video collection, and a generous Public Engagement grant from CIDA. We're excited and invite you join us for the Grand Opening of our Library at our AGM in June. I may not be there though, I'm contemplating taking a leave of absence to get some reading done!



CIDA/CFCA - Nicaragua Internships Lead to New Opportunities

Congratulations to our 1998 and 1999 CIDA interns Frank Bessai and Lorraine Swift who have been offered CUSO positions in Nicaragua for two years. Lorraine will be working at the Centro Humboldt, an environmental advocacy centre which works to publicise environmental issues in Nicaragua and Central America. Her work will be primarily in the north of the country along the Rio Coco. She will be working with indigenous communities on a land management plan.

Frank will once again be working with INPRHU teaching music and theatre. This time he will expand his classes to include 4 different INPRHU projects. Frank will be working with the Las Torres Project, the Isreal Lewites project and will also work in INPRHU's two new projects in the Mayoreo and Oriental markets. Good Luck to them both!

Lorraine's internship with CFCA / INPRHU over the last ten months went very well. Students in her computer classes are continuing to learn basic computer skills, conduct interviews and write articles to produce the second edition of "Desde la Calle" (from the street). Lorraine was able to obtain funding to print the next two editions of the newsletter as well as to pay a teacher to continue her classes from the Canada Fund for Local

Initiatives at the Canadian Consulate in Managua. Watch for the next edition of "Desde la Calle" this summer.

Lorraine Swift

students learning design skills in INPRHU project

beginner computer class



students learning printing press



learning basic computer skills in class



students interviewing flood victims

CFCA's Annual Garage Sale!!!

*Up to your ears in spring cleaning? Trying to simplify your life?
We are seeking donations for two upcoming garage sales.*

*To arrange to drop-off your goods please call
Pat at 988-6124 or Lucy at 462-6964.*

Sale dates are:

Friday, July 7 (4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.)
Saturday, July 8 (9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)



Please select marketable items in good condition only that you can deliver to Lucy's home.

Please call us if you are able to work as a volunteer at the sale.

You Are Invited to Change for Children's 2000 Annual General Meeting



Saturday, June 17, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
St. Michael's School Library
10545 - 92 Street, Edmonton



Featuring:

Reports and Celebration of the year's work
Amending our constitution and by-laws
Presentations by past interns

Election of new Board members
Sharing of possibilities for the coming year
Opportunities to meet new staff and interns

Refreshments, music, and socializing. - Please join us!

For more information call 448-1505



Instruments of Change

Saturday September 9th
Arts Barns

Instruments of Change is an annual fund-raiser which hosts different performers, and includes a large scale silent auction. In the past we have had such acts as Lin Elder, Maren Ord, Feast and many more.

Just wait to see what performers we have lined up this year. However, everything is hush hush for the moment. As Instruments of Change nears, we will let you in on the secret of which bands will be performing.

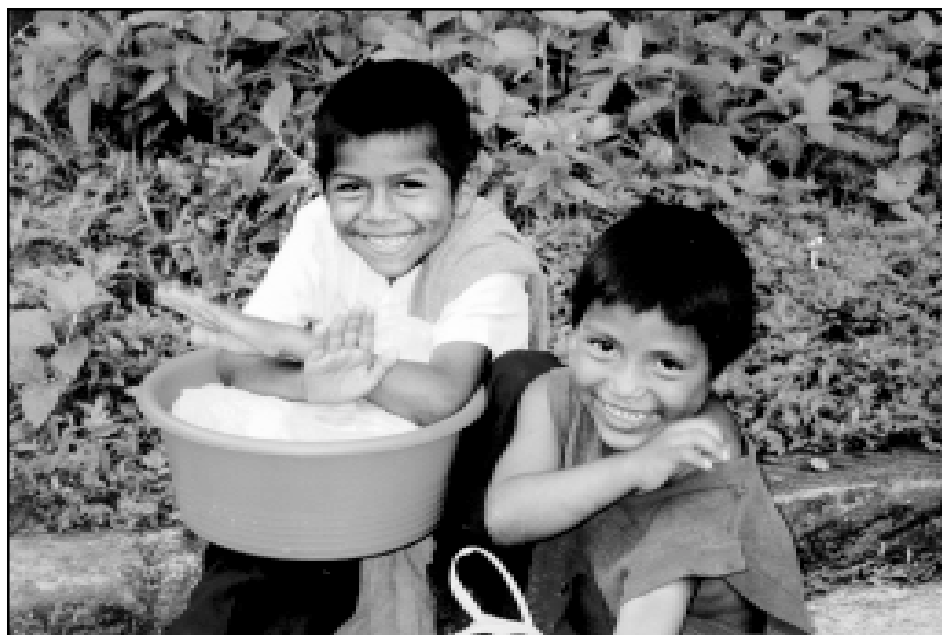
*Make sure to mark September 9th on your calendar!
You don't want to miss what we have
in store for you!*



24 years of solidarity in the struggle for sustainable development and social justice in Latin America and Canada...



Johana and Cristina from the Movimiento Maria Elena Cuadra of Managua Nicaragua with their translator Cecily Mills while on an educational tour of churches and schools around Alberta. Their organization works to protect the rights of working women in Nicaragua's Maquillas, foreign assembly plants set up in free trade zones throughout Latin America. Johana and Cristina were brought to Edmonton by the United Church Women. Change for Children applauds their important work.



Marion Foulds
kids selling candy and guarding vehicles in Managua

Comments?

We appreciate receiving your comments, suggestions or criticisms about this publication or it's content. Please mail, fax, or e-mail your letters to us at:

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Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 1V1.
Fax: (780) 448-1507
email: cfca@web.net.

Building Bridges

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Editors: Cherie Klassen & Ricardo Acuña Design: Lorraine Swift



While **CHANGE FOR CHILDREN ASSOCIATION (CFCA)** highly values its partnerships with communities of various religious and political persuasions, we are a non-sectarian, non-partisan society. Our development projects are located primarily in Central and South America, Mexico and the Philippines. Types of projects, their cost and priority are determined by the indigenous co-operants living in these countries, according to their current needs.

Support Change for Children with a PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENT PLAN

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 \$ _____
on the _____th of each month.

_____/_____
_____/_____

Signature(s) of Account Holder / Date Signed

Please support CFCA's Important Work with a CHARITABLE DONATION

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

- \$ 15.00 To purchase a 2000 Change for Children membership (non tax receiptable)
\$ _____ Undesignated - to be used as needed by Change for Children Association
\$ _____ Your general project account (supporting a variety of projects as required)
\$ _____ You projects in the country of _____
(current projects are in Mexico, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Peru, Brazil)
\$ _____ Your Development Education Program here in Canada
\$ _____ **Total amount enclosed.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____

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