

# Canada World View

ISSUE 17 • AUTUMN 2002

## Backpacks to briefcases

Youth representing  
Canada abroad



Canada at the  
Johannesburg and  
Francophonie summits



Department of Foreign Affairs  
and International Trade

Ministère des Affaires étrangères  
et du Commerce international

Canada

## About

### Canada World View

Published quarterly in English and French, *Canada World View* provides an overview of Canada's perspective on foreign policy issues, and features international Canadian initiatives and contributions.

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### Our cover

Young Canadian backpackers in front of the Colosseum in Rome, Italy. The various youth programs that the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade helps implement have facilitated some 36,000 exchanges worldwide, with equal numbers of Canadian interns travelling abroad and foreign interns coming to Canada.

*photo: Associated Press AP*

# OVERVIEW

It's a familiar and welcome sight around the globe: a backpack emblazoned with the Maple Leaf flag. Chances are that carrying it is one of the thousands of young Canadians who every year set off to explore the world by working abroad. And helping them is a range of programs implemented by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, along with other federal government departments and agencies. This issue of *Canada World View* highlights those programs and introduces a few of the participants. It also reports on the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from August 26 to September 4. There Canadian youth had a significant presence, and their actions are making a real difference.

The Canadian presence was strong at the October 18–20 Francophonie Summit in Beirut, Lebanon. This year the focus was on cultural diversity—a key feature of our country's identity, and a topic on which Canada was able to contribute much to the Summit discussion. We examine the context of the Summit and profile the long-standing connection between Lebanon and Canada. This dates back to the late 19th century, when the first Lebanese immigrants crossed the ocean to begin new lives here. Since then, successive waves of immigration from Lebanon have enhanced Canadian society and added to its diversity.

Diversity in the arts is celebrated at Mexico's Cervantino Festival, from October 9 to 27, where Canada is the country of honour. Performing are well-known artists representing a broad spectrum of talent from across Canada. As much as the backpackers, they demonstrate the vibrancy of our country—a society open to the world. 🍁

# IN THIS ISSUE

<b>Calendar</b> .....	<b>3</b>	<b>Culture</b>	
<b>Youth representing Canada abroad</b>		Canada honoured at the 2002 Cervantino Festival.....	<b>16</b>
Backpacks to briefcases: Canada's international youth programs.....	<b>4</b>	Canada's National Youth Orchestra... ..	<b>18</b>
The Johannesburg Summit: A success for sustainable development .....	<b>8</b>	Focus on Canadian First Nations in New York City	
<b>Canada in La Francophonie</b>		<b>News briefs</b>	
From Kananaskis to Beirut: Canada at the Francophonie Summit .....	<b>11</b>	G8 Summit adopts Africa Action Plan .....	<b>19</b>
Jean Paul Lemieux: A vision of Canada in Beirut.....	<b>13</b>	Afghanistan ratifies the Ottawa Convention	
A piece of Canada's cultural mosaic: The Lebanese-Canadian community... ..	<b>14</b>	Milestone in ties between Canada and Trinidad and Tobago.....	<b>20</b>

# CALENDAR

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

### OCTOBER

#### October 7

Canada–European Union (EU) Ministerial Meeting  
Copenhagen, Denmark

#### October 7

Canada Export Awards  
Vancouver, British Columbia

#### October 9–10

Arctic Council Meeting  
Inari, Finland

#### October 13–16

Global Conference of Parliamentarians Against Corruption  
Ottawa, Ontario

#### October 18–20

Francophonie Summit  
Beirut, Lebanon

#### October 23–24

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC) Joint Ministerial Meeting  
Los Cabos, Mexico

#### October 26–27

APEC Summit  
Los Cabos, Mexico

#### October 31–November 1

Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) Ministerial Meeting  
Quito, Ecuador

### NOVEMBER

#### November 14–15

World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Meeting  
Sydney, Australia

#### November 15–26

International Trade Minister Pierre Pettigrew leads trade mission to Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa

#### November 21–22

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Summit  
Prague, Czech Republic

### DECEMBER

#### December 6–7

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Ministerial Meeting  
Porto, Portugal

#### December 19

Canada–EU Summit  
Ottawa, Ontario

## CULTURE AND CANADIAN STUDIES

### OCTOBER

#### October 9–14

Frankfurt Book Fair  
Frankfurt, Germany

#### October 10–20

Montreal International Festival of New Cinema and New Media  
Montreal, Quebec

#### October 17–21

Toronto International Art Fair  
Toronto, Ontario

#### October 24–27

imagineNATIVE Media Arts Festival  
Toronto, Ontario

### NOVEMBER

#### November 28–30

Spanish Association for Canadian Studies, International Conference  
Salamanca, Spain

### DECEMBER

#### December 5–8

Art Basel Miami Beach  
Miami Beach, U.S.A.

### JANUARY 2003

#### January 9–13

Indian Association for Canadian Studies, 3rd Asia-Pacific Conference on Canadian Studies  
Mysore, India

### FEBRUARY

#### February 14–16

Association for Canadian Studies in German-Speaking Countries, Annual Conference  
Grainau, Germany

## UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAYS

### OCTOBER

#### October 17

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

#### October 24

United Nations Day

### NOVEMBER

#### November 16

International Day for Tolerance

#### November 20

Universal Children's Day

#### November 25

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

### DECEMBER

#### December 1

World AIDS Day

#### December 3

International Day of Disabled Persons

#### December 10

Human Rights Day

## BACKPACKS TO BRIEFCASES

### Canada's international youth programs help young people travel and work toward their career goals

*The following article was prepared by Joel Kom, a 2002 summer student with the Communications Bureau of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.*

**A**nnik Lussier laughs when asked to describe her typical day. “There’s never a typical day at work,” she says; some days she spends as much as 16 hours at the office.

Since October 2001, the 26-year-old journalism graduate from Ottawa has been a reporter at the *Cairo Times*, one of Egypt’s most prominent and independent English-language newspapers. Annik was placed there by the National Council on Canada-Arab Relations (see p. 15), one of the many implementing organizations of the Youth International Internship Program of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT). Despite the unpredictable nature of her work, she loves it.

“The things that I’m learning here equal any master’s degree,” she says. “It’s been a tremendous learning experience.”

Annik still vividly remembers her first day in Cairo. Her senses were overwhelmed by the cacophony, the pungent smells, the traffic and crowds of a city that swells unofficially to a population of 16.5 million in the day, when workers flood in from surrounding villages. “It’s chaos,” she says, “but it’s organized chaos.”

The past year has opened her eyes to some of the wonders of the world. Cairo is a series of contradictions: one moment you are enveloped by dust in the bustling and heavily polluted city, and the next moment you can be staring in awe at monuments dating from 2000 B.C.

Seeing the Pyramids has given her “such respect for history,” Annik says.

She writes at least two stories each week for the *Times*, whose mostly foreign staff includes Americans, Britons, Canadians, Egyptian-Americans and one Egyptian. She often covers international issues—for example, Egypt’s response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. She also writes about important national issues—for instance, the difficulties faced by human rights groups in Egypt. Exploring such topics gives her great satisfaction: When told by her editors that her article on human rights was being used by diplomats as a reference, Annik says, “I felt I had contributed to change somehow.”

Annik’s biggest challenge at work is trying to get information efficiently. Multiple telephone lines and voice mail have yet to come to Egypt, she says; more often than not interviews are conducted in person, and tea or juice must be served before you can get to the point. She found the ceremonious approach frustrating at first, but eventually she accepted that this is how things are done in Egypt and throughout the Arab world, where the traditional offering of hospitality is an integral part of the culture. This is one of the many reasons she has come to love the country.

#### Helping young Canadians contribute

The Internship Program is one of DFAIT’s flagship youth programs. It gives unemployed or underemployed Canadians a first opportunity to gain career-related international work experience, with pay. Established in 1997 under the Government of Canada’s Youth Employment Strategy, the program supports projects developed in cooperation with private and non-governmental organizations. Every year it helps arrange 400 six-month internships.



DFAIT Youth International Internship Program intern Annik Lussier in front of the *Cairo Times* building in Cairo, Egypt



DFAIT Youth International Internship Program intern Philip Strong in the Washington, D.C., office of the American Council of the Blind

Each internship is designed to hone the skills and knowledge required to succeed in work with an international focus. It provides vital experience that can be turned into a career. Without this help, breaking into the international job market can be virtually impossible.

Internships are organized in each area of Canada's foreign policy: global issues; international trade; and culture and values. Projects listed under global issues promote priorities such as peace and human security, war-affected children, human rights, and democratic development. Trade interns learn about the promotion of international trade and sustainable development; they work with various trade councils, international organizations and the private sector. Many culture interns have been placed with film and television production companies, and have ended up finding full-time employment there. The internships carry out the government's commitment to helping young Canadians contribute to their country, gain employment, and apply their business and creative skills.

In 2001-02 Philip Strong, a 29-year-old from St. John's, Newfoundland, spent six months at the American Council of the Blind (ACB) in Washington, D.C. Visually impaired himself, Philip worked on developing accessible pedestrian signals. After his internship ended, he was asked to return and carry on the ACB project, which will be submitted to U.S. government officials. For blind and visually impaired pedestrians, the result could be better signals on street corners. For Philip, the result may be a full-time job at the ACB.

Philip encountered his own set of challenges, including repeated questions about his Newfoundland accent. "I was often asked what part of Ireland I was from," he says. Of course, nothing could have prepared him for what

happened during his first week on the job: Days after he arrived in Washington, the city was hit by the attacks of September 11, 2001. "We didn't know what to think. We were dumbstruck," he says, remembering that life ground to a halt. Philip contemplated returning home to safer territory, but eventually he decided to carry on with his work.

When asked to name the most enjoyable aspect of their internship, Philip and Annik both say it's the people. Philip met many warm and friendly Americans, including some co-workers who went out of their way to help him adjust to life in Washington and opened their homes to him. Annik has been fascinated by all the internationally minded people she has met in Cairo. For both, the experience broke stereotypes and opened doors to rewarding possibilities that they might never have discovered without the program.

D'Arcy Thorpe, Manager of the Youth International Internship Program, says, "This is a proven vehicle for engaging youth in international issues. International internships should be a key element of Canada's new Innovation Strategy. We are seeking input from the public, and it will be reviewed at the Innovation Summit to be held in Toronto in November, where DFAIT interns and partners will participate." The Summit will bring together representatives of business, universities and government with the aim of developing an action plan to make Canada a world leader in innovation by the year 2010.

## The Youth Zone explores human security issues

Young Canadians have shown that they care about human security issues and want to be kept informed about them. Now they will be able to find the information they want on a Web page designed especially for them, within the Human Security site of DFAIT. The Youth Zone makes its debut this fall.

The Youth Zone is geared toward high school and university students. It will contain information on human security in general, and specifically on Canada's Human Security Program. It will also carry photos and stories from young people who have practical experience in peacebuilding and human security. The Youth Zone is intended as a research tool for students, and will be a valuable resource for teachers who want to bring human security issues into

the classroom. Bookmark the Youth Zone Web address: [www.humansecurity.gc.ca/jeunesse-e.asp](http://www.humansecurity.gc.ca/jeunesse-e.asp)



## On-your-own programs

The Internship Program is only one of the ways that DFAIT helps youth expand their international horizons.

The Department also negotiates international agreements that allow young Canadians to work overseas under four other arrangements: the Working Holiday Program; the Student Work Abroad Program (SWAP); the Young Workers' Exchange Program; and the Co-op Program. "We build the road for youngsters to go abroad," says Michel Gigault, head of the section responsible for the agreements. He calls the programs "Canada's best-kept secret" for youth, and estimates that they have facilitated some 36,000 exchanges worldwide, with equal numbers of Canadian interns travelling abroad and foreign interns coming to Canada. He adds, "Youth from other countries experience Canadian culture and values when they come here. Many of the participants who have gone on to play important roles in their own countries as diplomats or business leaders say that their experience in Canada translated into better relations as well as increased trade between our two countries."

The programs target youth between the ages of 18 and 30. The aim is to provide new skills in international employment, as well as exposure to foreign cultures. Participants apply for temporary permits to work abroad; implementing organizations often help them find a job.

## Take YouthPath to your goals

The Internet can be confusing and even intimidating. Is there a site where you can track down the specific information you need and be confident that what you have found is reliable? Canadian youth have such a place: YouthPath.

Launched in March 2002, YouthPath is a Web site designed by youth for youth. It covers all Government of Canada programs, services and information of interest to young people. Whether it's education, travel or employment, you can learn about it here.

Led by Human Resources Development Canada, YouthPath is the outcome of the work of about 400 young Canadians and 16 federal departments, including DFAIT. It is one of the government's biggest on-line initiatives.

With its youth-oriented format and layout, YouthPath is an example of the government's efforts to involve young people in government projects. It features a youth news team, reporting on stories relevant to young Canadians for posting on the site. It has sound, motion, animation, even a virtual host you can customize. Check it out at: <http://youthpath.ca>



Enfants d'ici ou d'ailleurs intern Véronique Côté at the school in Hammamet, Tunisia, where she taught cross-cultural training and issues related to La Francophonie, human security, civic duty and the environment

Three years ago, 22-year-old Dara Parker of Richmond Hill, Ontario, went to Ireland through SWAP, for which the Canadian Federation of Students is the implementing organization. She found a job in a hotel bar on Ireland's west coast, enabling her to experience Irish culture and tour the country. "Being somewhere new and meeting people from all over the world was the fun and encouraging part," she says; what she valued most was "gaining a new perspective into a different culture."

Since SWAP was established in 1975, agreements have allowed over 25,000 youth to travel and work abroad. The program currently sends 2,700 youth abroad annually. Participants choose their jobs by going to a country's partner organization and looking at what's available. Once they find something of interest, they attend an orientation session and are sent on their way. "It definitely inspired me to continue travelling and seek out other cultural experiences," says Dara; she has since visited Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and France. SWAP made things easier for her and gave her important contacts. She considers it a great program for anybody who's nervous about making a first trip or who wants a safety net.

## Front-line foreign policy

Still other programs, often involving partner organizations, give youth a role in furthering Canada's foreign policy objectives. One such partner is Enfants d'ici ou d'ailleurs [Children from here or abroad]. This non-governmental organization focuses on human security in countries of La Francophonie. Each year it organizes one-year internships for 20 students aged 20 to 25 from the Université de Montréal and the Université du Québec à Montréal. Interns spend nine months studying human security issues with the program coordinators. Next they go to Quebec schools to gain teaching experience. They then

travel to an African country for five weeks to apply their skills and educate schools and communities on human security issues.

Véronique Côté was a human security intern in Tunisia in 2002. “The experience changed me,” she says. “I was able to open up to another culture and exchange thoughts with people whose outlook was sometimes different from mine.” Interns produced videos, organized meetings with local officials and, says Véronique, “taught children that rights exist to ensure that our needs are met.”

### Programs at home

For young people who prefer to stay in Canada, DFAIT offers other opportunities to get involved with key foreign policy issues. One is the Youth Mine Action Ambassador Program, delivered in cooperation with Mines Action Canada and the Canadian Red Cross; this unique program is designed to raise community awareness and involvement. Organizations across Canada act as hosts each year for the Youth Ambassadors, who teach about the deadly toll of landmines on innocent civilians and their communities. Their work helps Canada carry out its commitment to the global ban on landmines.

Since its inception in 1998, some 33 Youth Ambassadors have participated in the program. One of them was Darryl Toews of Morden, Manitoba, who worked with teachers and students throughout his province. “I saw my role as being a resource,” he says, “and trying to motivate people to go beyond simply learning about the issue and instead doing something to help solve the problem.”

During his 11 months as a Youth Ambassador in 1999–2000, Darryl organized presentations, fund-raisers and other activities. The aim was to raise awareness of the global landmine problem, and to inform the public about Canada’s efforts to implement the Ottawa Convention banning anti-personnel mines. The response, he recalls, was often overwhelming: “I was very inspired so many times by what young people were doing here, and for me that was the best part.”

Another extraordinary opportunity to get involved in policy making was the Winnipeg Conference on War-Affected Children, held in September 2000 (see *Canada*

*World View*, Issues 9 and 10).

At this event youth sat at the decision-making table with adults, and once the conference ended they acted as advisers on other projects involving war-affected children.

Under its International Criminal Court Campaign, DFAIT also helped War Child Canada organize a youth forum on international criminal justice in Ottawa from March 1 to 3, 2002. Fifty high school and university students from across the country attended the conference to learn more about international justice and the Court.

### An opportunity to be seized

To youth who are considering any of the Department’s youth initiatives, Philip Strong advises, “Don’t let an opportunity such as the internship program pass you by.”

“It will be an amazing year,” says Darryl Toews of the landmine action program. What is particularly rewarding, he finds, is getting to see the results of your work.

Annik Lussier knows that participants may well encounter frustrations and some trying times in the DFAIT youth programs. But much more important, she says, “In the end you will be enriched by the experience.” 🍁



Darryl Toews and fellow Youth Mine Action Ambassador Carla Potts observe demining in a cleared neighbourhood of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, April 2000.

For more information about DFAIT programs for youth, visit:

Youth International Internship Program  
[www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/interns](http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/interns)

International Youth Programs  
[www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/123go](http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/123go)

# THE JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT

## A success for sustainable development— and for young Canadians

**W**hen Justin Friesen entered Grade 6 this September in Halifax, Nova Scotia, he had quite a story to tell about his summer.

Last May, at the International Children's Conference on the Environment in Victoria, British Columbia, Justin was one of two delegates selected to attend the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa. He arrived in Johannesburg in late August with a long "to do" list that included addressing world leaders, meeting with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and learning more about the nature of poverty in a developing country.

"I just couldn't speak when we drove by some of the houses in Soweto," says Justin. "It looked like you couldn't even lie down. I've never seen anything like it. It's good that I saw it."

A follow-up to the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, the Johannesburg Summit ran from August 26 to September 4. On hand were tens of thousands of participants: heads of state and government, national delegates, and leaders from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the media, business and other major groups. Their

mission: to re-energize the global commitment to sustainable development by integrating environmental, economic and social priorities. Canada believes that sustainable development can come about only through effective partnerships between government, the private sector, NGOs, local communities and others—including youth.

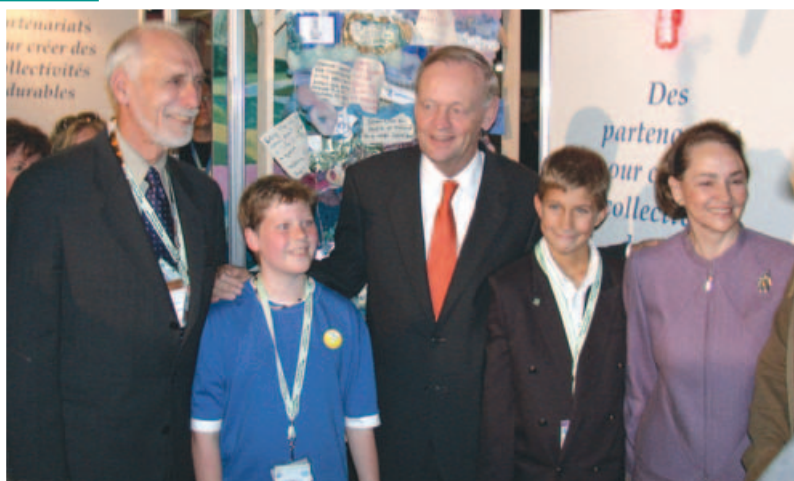
### A youth perspective

The UN International Youth Day on August 12 spurred the world's young people to bring their concerns to Johannesburg. From pre-teens in elementary school to young adults working for social change, they made their voices heard loud and clear.

One of them was 11-year-old Ryan Hreljac of Kemptville, Ontario—founder of Ryan's Well Foundation, which contributes funds to help build wells in Africa (see *Canada World View*, Issue 16, p. 19). Ryan travels the world promoting the fundamental right of access to clean water. At the Summit he met with Prime Minister Chrétien and Prince Willem Alexander of the Netherlands. He also delivered a speech along with International Cooperation Minister Susan Whelan.

Ryan took part in a panel session sponsored by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on the topic "Water, Poverty and Children." He was one of nine speakers at the event. Among the others: Nane Annan, wife of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan; Swedish Environment Minister Lena Sonmestad; Dr. David Nabarro, Executive Director of Sustainable Development at the World Health Organization; and UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Kul Gautam.

Perhaps what most impressed Ryan at the Summit was a tour of water projects in the squatter and refugee camps outside Johannesburg. He says, "We were able to speak with local people and actually see what their lives were



Youth delegates Justin Friesen and Ryan Hreljac with Environment Minister David Anderson, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Mrs. Aline Chrétien at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg





International Cooperation Minister Susan Whelan tours the exhibit hall at the World Summit on Sustainable Development with Ryan Hreljac and representatives of Brazil.

like in these camps made up of tin shacks with no running water or electricity. It put this summit of world leaders in perspective for me.”

### Youth interns at the Summit

Participating in the Summit in diverse roles were about 25 current and former interns from international youth programs sponsored by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Canadian International Development Agency, and Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) (see “Backpacks to briefcases,” p. 4). Alyson Slater interned for six months with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development in Geneva; she now works for the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)—an Amsterdam-based international NGO that encourages corporations to report on their environmental and social performance.

“The GRI stays as neutral as possible,” she says. “We bring companies together with government, labour and NGOs so they can find out exactly what their stakeholders want to know.”

A five-year consultation process culminated at the Johannesburg Summit with the release of the GRI’s 2002 *Sustainability Reporting Guidelines*. These feature 60 precise indicators for gathering and reporting information on everything from child labour practices to industrial effluent.

In the free time from her Summit duties with GRI, Alyson joined with another former intern, Dagmar Timmer, to organize a reception celebrating Canada’s internship programs. The event drew 25 interns, plus representatives of 20 host organizations from all over the world as well as the International Institute for Sustainable Development, a

Winnipeg-based partner of the internship programs. All told, about 60 people attended—including International Cooperation Minister Susan Whelan, who addressed the reception.

“We are going to continue to invest in young people, and to develop new approaches to innovation, learning and achieving excellence,” said Minister Whelan. “We remain committed to building advanced skills through career-related work experiences, and to helping youth continue advanced studies.”

“These youth programs are so beneficial,” says Alyson, “not just for our personal and professional lives, but also for Canada. There are interns working for the United Nations, NGOs and even in corporations, trying to push for more attention to sustainable development. I really think we are ambassadors for Canada.”

### Summit achievements: the official . . .

Canada was pleased with the success of the Summit. There were three major outcomes: a Political Declaration and a Plan of Implementation, plus non-negotiated partnerships for sustainable development. Canada’s stated priorities were all met.

The negotiated texts, for example, reflect Canada’s focus on good governance as a precondition for sustainable development. In fact, Canada has set aside \$6 billion in new and existing resources over five years to establish the preconditions for sustainable development in Africa;

this is in accordance with the commitment to a new partnership with Africa undertaken last June by G8 countries at their summit in Kananaskis, Alberta. Where appropriate, the Johannesburg Summit fixed realistic targets for achieving agreed priorities. It also recognized the importance of public-private partnerships.



photo: Andrew Robinson

Former youth intern Alyson Slater, now on the staff of the Global Reporting Initiative, at the Johannesburg Summit



Youth delegate Severn Cullis-Suzuki, daughter of environmentalist David Suzuki, at the Johannesburg Summit. Ten years ago at the Rio Summit in Brazil, Severn (then aged 12) received a standing ovation for her impassioned speech about the need to save the world for future generations.

The Summit endorsed, among other things, the Millennium Development Goals for eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development; these emerged from the 2000 UN Millennium Summit. In addition, Johannesburg set out new targets and actions in areas such as sanitation, the sound management of chemicals, and restoring and maintaining fish stocks. On the difficult issue of renewable energies it reached a compromise, with delegates

committing to increased use but not setting concrete goals or time lines. Finally, Canada successfully lobbied for the Plan of Implementation to give due attention to the issue of human rights and women's health.

However, one of the most significant steps for Canada was Prime Minister Chrétien's announcement that the government would put the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol to a vote in Parliament by the end of the year. He also pledged to expand Canada's national parks and marine conservation system—and took the first steps toward doing so in an announcement on October 3.

In his address to the Summit, the Prime Minister emphasized that wise environmental stewardship is a universal obligation reflecting a rising global awareness that clean air, clean water and safe food are universal needs.

***Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.***

— *Our Common Future: Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (the Brundtland Report), 1987*

“The consensus here in Johannesburg will help us create a cleaner and healthier world for our children and for generations to come,” said Mr. Chrétien. “Sustainable development is about the very destiny of our planet.”

***... and the unofficial***

For many delegates, the lasting outcomes of the Summit will be the friendships, alliances and networks they formed.

“For African NGOs, it's such a wonderful opportunity to work with global NGOs and have access to new information resources,” says Roxanne Breton, an HRDC intern who worked as South Africa liaison of Leadership for Environment and Development International, a worldwide network based in London, U.K. “The same goes for the global NGOs, who get a different kind of knowledge

about development from actually being here in Africa.”

Justin Friesen learned plenty from his trip—enough for several essays. He kept a journal, which will appear on his Web site ([www.justinvision.com](http://www.justinvision.com)). He also met with the official Canadian delegation to the Summit, and described his

own experiences at one of the daily delegation meetings.

Recalling his presentation to world leaders on issues ranging from climate change to clean water, Justin was optimistic. “I think they really understood this time—finally!” he says. ♣

**For more information on the Johannesburg Summit and Canada's role in sustainable development, visit: [www.wssd.gc.ca](http://www.wssd.gc.ca)**

**For more information on Ryan's Well Foundation, visit: [www.ryanswell.ca](http://www.ryanswell.ca)**



# FROM KANANASKIS TO BEIRUT

## Canada at the Francophonie Summit

**T**his October 18 to 20 in Beirut, Lebanon, the ninth Francophonie Summit brought together the leaders of 55 states and governments representing 625 million people who use French as a common language. They discussed international issues relevant to Francophones all over the world, and promoted La Francophonie's vision of a diverse global society.

Since its first summit in Paris in 1986, the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie has become a key multilateral forum for political dialogue and exchange, and for mobilizing resources in support of cooperation in the French-speaking world.

La Francophonie sees open dialogue as the key to a global society where diverse identities can flourish to the benefit of all. With members representing a broad spectrum of nations and cultures from Europe, North and sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, North America, and the Caribbean, La Francophonie strives for open, pluralistic approaches to culture, and it actively promotes respect for minorities and tolerance. It champions a vision of a cohesive complementarity of cultures rather than one dominant culture.

### A vision of cultural diversity

The theme for the Beirut Summit was "The Dialogue of Cultures." It was explored within a wide range of political and economic discussions. In addition, proposals were tabled on programs to open the lines of

communication between member states and beyond. Attending on behalf of Canada were Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Sheila Copps, Minister of Canadian Heritage, and Denis Paradis, Secretary of State for Latin America, Africa and La Francophonie.

Prime Minister Chrétien said in a recently published article, "La Francophonie was the very first international organization to conduct an in-depth examination of the need for promoting cultural diversity. The Beirut Summit theme will enable heads of state and government to go still further in a dialogue on understanding, acceptance and reconciliation between different cultures; and this will help to avoid more tragedies like that of September 2001, which still is making its mark on us."

Adds Secretary of State Paradis, "The broad range of cultures that make up La Francophonie and the common use of the French language lead its members to work together both politically and economically, making La Francophonie a true model of cultural diversity. Canada's commitment to multiculturalism and



Overlooking the Mediterranean Sea—Beirut, the capital of Lebanon and site of the ninth Francophonie Summit

photo: courtesy Embassy of Lebanon, Ottawa (Ministry of Tourism)



**IX<sup>e</sup> SOMMET DE LA  
FRANCOPHONIE**  
Beirut 2002

our rich and dynamic French culture place us in an important and privileged position in this dialogue of cultures in La Francophonie, which enabled us to make a valuable contribution to the discussions at the Beirut Summit."

### Canada's contribution

Canada's involvement in La Francophonie is one of the main thrusts of this country's foreign policy. Our participation reflects our country's linguistic duality and commitment to a unique, modern and diverse Francophone community within our borders. Our membership offers an



For more information on Canada in La Francophonie, visit: [www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/foreign\\_policy/francophonie](http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/foreign_policy/francophonie)

opportunity to build solidarity and forge special ties on a wide range of international issues: language and culture; politics and economics; and international cooperation and technology transfer.

In addition to ongoing contributions as a member, Canada has hosted two Francophonie Summits: in Quebec City in 1987; and in Moncton, New Brunswick, in 1999 (see *Canada World View*, Issue 5). The key theme of the Moncton Summit was youth: for the first time ever youth delegates were invited to participate alongside heads of state and government. And even before the Summit convened, young people took part in preparatory consultations, where they grappled with the issues that they faced in their own country and internationally.

### Youth and La Francophonie

Two main documents emerged from the 1999 Summit: the Moncton Declaration and its resulting Action Plan. Both enshrined the importance of youth within La Francophonie. In fact, the first chapter of the Declaration is devoted exclusively to youth issues; and in it, leaders committed to making youth an integral part of their actions.

The Moncton Action Plan has four components: youth consultation and participation; integration into society and the workplace; youth mobility; and better access to new technology. The Plan particularly targets developing nations, which are strongly represented in La Francophonie.

The legacy of the Moncton Summit is that attention to youth issues is now institutionalized and explicit in all aspects of La Francophonie's activities.

### Action for Africa

The Beirut Summit provides an opportunity to build upon other recent initiatives, such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). This is of particular importance to La Francophonie, since African countries make up the majority of its membership. NEPAD is a pledge given by African leaders to their peoples to build durable peace and security, strengthen democracy and good governance, open trade and investment, address crises in health and education, and generally encourage people-oriented development.

Last June, in Kananaskis, Alberta, the G8 Summit adopted an Africa Action Plan to promote commitment to the principles contained in NEPAD (see "News briefs," p. 19). Canada was one of the main proponents of the Action Plan, which has equally strong support from the chair of the 2003 G8 Summit, France. Since both countries are members of the G8 as well as La Francophonie, they can help ensure the success of NEPAD and the Africa Action Plan, especially in the Francophone countries of Africa.

NEPAD represents a historic opportunity for Africa. Its aim is to bring real improvement in the quality of life of the people of that continent—and La Francophonie has a key role to play in ensuring that it does. 🍁

# JEAN PAUL LEMIEUX

## A vision of Canada in Beirut

**D**uring the Francophonie Summit, art lovers in Beirut were able to explore the work of a renowned Quebec painter. *Jean Paul Lemieux: His Canada* is the title of an exhibition sponsored by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the National Archives of Canada, and the Canadian Postal Museum—Canadian Museum of Civilization. It features 12 paintings commissioned by Canada Post for a set of commemorative stamps issued to mark Canada Day 1984. The canvases depict scenes from each of Canada's 10 provinces plus the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. Lemieux created them over a period of several years, working primarily from memory and his inner store of images.

The stamps were unveiled and the paintings first displayed in Quebec City in June 1984, at the official residence of the Governor General of Canada. "Extraordinary!" said one of the viewers to Lemieux at the opening. "You really think so?" replied the painter. "It's only my vision of the country." Fourteen years later, in 1998, the Canadian Postal Museum—Canadian Museum of Civilization in the National Capital Region mounted the exhibition that now is being shown in Beirut.

Born in Quebec City in 1904, Jean Paul Lemieux started painting at an early age. He studied at Montreal's École des beaux-arts and later in France, spending time also in California. He began as mainly a

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***I am especially interested  
in conveying the solitude  
of man and the  
ever-flowing passage  
of time. I try to express  
this silence in which we  
all move.***

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—Jean Paul Lemieux

landscape painter but the best-known works of his maturity show sparse, flattened figures against austere backgrounds. His minimalist style clearly was edging toward abstractionism, but he never created totally abstract art.



*Prince Edward Island* (top) and *Saskatchewan*, two of the paintings by Jean Paul Lemieux commissioned by Canada Post in 1984 for a set of 12 commemorative stamps



photos: Canada Post Corporation

Before his death in 1990 he received numerous awards, including the Order of Canada, and he was posthumously made a Grand Chevalier of the Ordre du Québec. Today he remains one of Quebec's most-exhibited artists.

Running to October 30, the show is being held jointly with a larger exhibition of postage stamps from countries of La Francophonie. It marks the first time that this collection of Lemieux paintings has travelled overseas, and it is the very first exhibition in Beirut devoted to a Canadian painter. It was officially opened by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Lebanese Prime Minister Rafic Hariri. ♣

# A PIECE OF CANADA'S CULTURAL MOSAIC

## The Lebanese-Canadian community adds much to our vibrant Francophone culture

**W**hen Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Sheila Copps, Minister of Canadian Heritage, and Denis Paradis, Secretary of State for Latin America, Africa and La Francophonie, attended the ninth Francophonie Summit in Beirut, Lebanon, they were visiting the birthplace of thousands of their fellow citizens.

The long-standing connection between Canada and Lebanon stretches back over 100 years to when the first Arabic-speaking immigrants arrived in Canada—along with immigrants from other parts of the world, particularly eastern, central and southern Europe. All helped contribute to the rich cultural diversity that defines Canada.

### From small beginnings

The first four immigrants from Lebanon (then part of Syria) arrived in Montreal in 1882. These early immigrants usually made their living as peddlers: they sold their wares on streets in downtown Montreal or in rural communities near the Ontario towns of London and Stratford, or else they opened wholesale stores to resupply peddlers with merchandise.

Today many Lebanese-Canadians are university-educated, often speak both of Canada's official languages, and are professionals such as doctors, lawyers, engineers and professors. There are two Members of Parliament of Lebanese origin—Mark Assad (Gatineau) and Mac Harb (Ottawa Centre)—as well as Senator Pierre Debané and a former premier of Prince Edward Island, the late

Joe Ghiz. Lebanese-Canadians have also been active in the arts as writers (especially in French), painters and musicians. Currently on display at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Gatineau, Quebec, is *The Lands Within Me*—the first-ever exhibition of Arab-Canadian artists; running until March 2003, it includes several artists of Lebanese origin.

One of the most famous of the early Lebanese immigrants was a woman, Annie Midlige, who grew up in the mountains around Beirut and came to Ottawa in 1895. From her base in Ottawa, this 40-something widow paddled a canoe all the way up the Gatineau River, accompanied by an Indian guide, to the remote interior of Quebec, establishing stores and trading furs along the way. So adept was Annie that she gave the Hudson's Bay Company (Canada's oldest trading company and now one of our largest department store chains) tough competition in the fur trading business.

By 1901 there were about 2,000 Syrian-Lebanese in Canada. Between 1911 and 1951 an immigration policy restricting "Asiatics," which included immigrants of Arab origin, reduced the steady influx of new immigrants

from Lebanon and Syria. But from the mid-1950s onward, the Lebanese have continued to be the largest group of Arabs in Canada.

In the mid-1970s, during the Lebanese civil war, Canada was the only country to adopt special immigration measures to assist Lebanese fleeing the conflict; it even set up an emergency visa office in Nicosia, Cyprus, in 1989. Since so many Lebanese already had family in Canada, it was easier for them to adjust to their new home here. In addition, the French influence in Lebanon, where Arabic and French are the official languages, made Montreal a natural choice for the majority of the newcomers.

### The Lebanese and Montreal

Since the 1880s, Montreal has been a magnet for new Lebanese immigrants. The city has the largest Lebanese community in Canada, whose members have contributed greatly to Canada's vibrant Francophone culture. Like the Lebanese in Beirut, who pepper sentences with Arabic, French and English, the Lebanese-Canadians of Montreal move seamlessly between French and Arabic in one conversation.



photo: E. Aboud family private collection. Courtesy Centre d'histoire de Montréal and the exhibition "Min Zamaan"—Since Long Ago: The Syrian-Lebanese Presence in Montreal.

Syrian-Lebanese immigrants Faris and Yusuf Aboud in their dry-goods shop, "E. Aboud," on the corner of Craig and Saint-Urbain Streets in Montreal, ca. 1912. The brothers opened their store in 1908.

The Centre d'histoire de Montréal is holding an exhibition called "Min Zamaan"—Since Long Ago: The Syrian-Lebanese Presence in Montreal Between 1882 and 1940. Running from October 10, 2002, to May 25, 2003, the exhibition is organized by Dr. Brian Aboud. For more information, visit: [www2.ville.montreal.qc.ca/chm/engl/exptempa.shtm](http://www2.ville.montreal.qc.ca/chm/engl/exptempa.shtm)

## Flourishing in a new home

Today, there are over 250,000 Lebanese in Canada. Besides Montreal, other major Lebanese communities are in Ontario, particularly in Ottawa (and across the Ottawa River in Gatineau, Quebec), Toronto, Hamilton, Windsor and London. There are large communities as well in Edmonton (Alberta) and Nova Scotia.

Like the first Syrian-Lebanese immigrants who were in business for themselves, the new influx of post-civil war Lebanese immigrants have set up restaurants in every major city in Canada, with Arabic and French or English signs advertising *shawarma* and *felafel* sandwiches.

In many cases the first wave of immigrants never returned to their homeland. In contrast, subsequent generations have maintained strong ties with Lebanon: they send substantial remittances to family, raise funds for charity and return frequently on vacation. Satellite and digital cable television and inexpensive phone cards have made it possible for most

Lebanese immigrants to keep in regular contact with Lebanon in a way that was impossible for the early newcomers. There are economic ties too, with billboard signs in Beirut advertising merchandise "made in Canada" and shops carrying clothes "made in Montreal."

Lebanese immigrants have created strong community links within Canada as well. There are numerous Arabic-language newspapers published across Canada, including several in Montreal with articles written in both French and Arabic. The first Syrian-Greek Orthodox church in Canada was built in Montreal in 1910, and the first mosque in Canada, al-Rashid, was built by Lebanese immigrants in Edmonton in 1938.

The National Council on Canada-Arab Relations is a network founded in 1985 with input from Montreal's Lebanese community. Based in Ottawa, the Council works with government, the private sector and community organizations to promote awareness of the Arab world and of

the expanding commercial, scientific, educational and cultural connections between Canadian and Arab institutions.

In area, Lebanon is only a little over the size of Edmonton. Its population (as of 2001) is 3.6 million, but many more Lebanese live outside their homeland, on every continent, than within its borders. Canada is among the many countries around the world where Lebanese immigrants have forged a new life for themselves. In doing so they have enhanced our cultural mosaic and added to the vitality of our Francophone community. 🍁

(See box, p. 19)

This article is based on research by: Dr. Brian Aboud ("A Truer Reflection: Canadians of Arab Origin: Concerns and Contributions," in *Canadian Labour Congress Anti-Racism and Human Rights Bulletin*, Issue 3, December 10, 2001); Dr. Baha Abu-Laban ("The Lebanese in Montreal," in *The Lebanese in the World*, 1992); Mrs. Jessie Amery, London, Ontario; Dr. Sarah Gualtieri, Loyola University, New Orleans, U.S.A.; and Peter Leney ("Annie Midlige, Fur Trader," in *The Beaver*, June/July 1996).

# CANADA HONOURED AT THE 2002 CERVANTINO FESTIVAL



Canada is in the spotlight this October as the city of Guanajuato, in central Mexico, hosts the 30th annual Cervantino Festival. This is one of Latin America's leading multidisciplinary festivals of the arts. It has an ideal setting in Guanajuato: a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the city was founded in 1546 and boasts superb architecture. In the 30-year history of the festival, this is only the second time that the focus is on the artists and cultural work of one specific country.

The Arts and Cultural Industries Promotion Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) has worked closely with the Canadian Embassy in Mexico City to ensure that Canada's best—representing a wide range of talent from across the country—is on display at this year's festival. Division Director Curtis Barlow says, "The festival offers a prestigious world stage in a priority region. This is a golden opportunity to promote a positive image of Canada as culturally diverse, creative, innovative and modern."

Many Canadian artists and cultural groups are appearing at the 2002 Cervantino Festival. Among them:

- Grand Dérangement is a lively Nova Scotia-based group of Acadian musicians and dancers. Its sound is a fusion of styles that sets the stage reverberating and makes listeners feel like joining in.
- Also from Nova Scotia, Mermaid Theatre is presenting *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and *The Very Quiet Cricket*, by Eric Carle. Both of them favourites of young audiences, the performances take

A member of Montreal troupe Les gens d'R in performance



Grand Dérangement, a group of Acadian musicians and dancers based in Nova Scotia

photo: courtesy Les gens d'R

photo: Sue Mills





Emily Molnar in Ballet British Columbia's production of *The Faerie Queen*

spectators to a universe where insects have adventures and feel love. The productions feature puppetry that combines dialogue with sounds, colours and huge surprises. Last year Mermaid Theatre won a prestigious Canada Export Award in recognition of its international success. With its unique adaptations of children's literature, the company has introduced more than 2.5 million youngsters on four continents to the magic of live theatre.

- The Montreal-based theatre troupe Les Deux Mondes is presenting *Mémoire vive*—one of its many original stage productions that have won acclaim from international audiences.

The Cervantino Festival runs from October 9 to 27, 2002. For more information, contact DFAIT's Arts and Cultural Industries Promotion Division, tel. (613) 944-ARTS, or visit the following Web pages:

Festival Internacional Cervantino (Spanish only)  
[www.festivalcervantino.gob.mx](http://www.festivalcervantino.gob.mx)

Canadian Embassy, Mexico City—Calendar of Public Affairs Events  
[www.canada.org.mx/cultural/english/Cervantino.asp](http://www.canada.org.mx/cultural/english/Cervantino.asp)

- Les gens d'R was founded in Montreal in 1995 by André Simard, formerly of the Cirque du Soleil. Growing out of the art of circus acrobatics, the company's original work seeks to bring together dance, theatre and music.
- The Gryphon Trio of Toronto is considered one of Canada's best classical music ensembles, known for a vital, novel reading of the classics. Its members are Roman Borys (cello), Jamie Parker (piano) and Annalee Patipatanakoon (violin). Since 1993 the three have toured widely in Canada and abroad, winning kudos for their interpretations of Haydn, Mendelssohn, Dvorak and other composers.
- Ballet British Columbia is directed by internationally renowned choreographer John Alleyne. It is presenting *The Faerie Queen*, a full-length production based on Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with music of Henry Purcell. Exploring new dimensions of dance, this fantastic work examines the true nature of love.

In addition, on display at the Alhondiga Museum are two exhibitions of Inuit art: *Transitions*, from the collection of the Indian Art Centre of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada; and *Culture on Cloth: Inuit Wall Hanging*, curated by Judith Varney Burch. 🍁

Toronto classical music ensemble the Gryphon Trio



photo: Cylla Von Tiedemann

# THE NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF CANADA

**F**ounded in 1960, the National Youth Orchestra of Canada prepares young Canadians for careers in professional orchestras. Its alumni make up approximately one third of Canada's professional orchestral musicians.

Every year, an average of 500 youth from across Canada apply for a position in the orchestra. Auditions are held across the country; for the 100 successful candidates, assistance is available to help them attend the intensive summer training session at



Participants in the summer session of the National Youth Orchestra at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario

Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. The young musicians then give a series of concerts on tour. This year they performed in Ontario, British Columbia and Japan.

In its 42 years, the orchestra has trained 2,200 of Canada's finest young musicians. Today it is renowned as one of the best youth orchestras in the world.

photo: courtesy National Youth Orchestra of Canada

## FOCUS ON CANADIAN FIRST NATIONS IN NEW YORK CITY

photo: courtesy Bethlehem Steel



Canadian First Nations are making news in New York City, thanks to a partnership between the Canadian Consulate General and the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI). Just closed at the Museum: *Booming Out: Mohawk Ironworkers Build New York*, an exhibit co-sponsored by the Consulate General, which ran for six months to mid-October. In addition, the Consulate General facilitated the visit last September of a delegation of Haida from British Columbia, who came to New York to repatriate

ancestral remains from the American Museum of Natural History. To mark the occasion, the Consulate General arranged for a public dance performance by the Haida at NMAI. Among upcoming events planned by this innovative partnership: on November 21, a panel on land claims and self-government, featuring Nisga'a Treaty negotiators Dr. Joseph Gosnell and Tom Molloy; and on January 30, 2003, a panel on Aboriginal humour featuring filmmaker Drew Hayden Taylor and Don Kelly.

Mohawk steelworker Joe Regis helps to build the Chase Manhattan Bank in New York City, in the late 1960s. Many Mohawk helped erect Manhattan landmarks, including the World Trade Center towers. After the September 11 attacks they helped dismantle the ruins of the Twin Towers. This photograph appeared in the exhibition *Booming Out: Mohawk Ironworkers Build New York*.



### G8 adopts Africa Action Plan

Africa topped the agenda of the G8 Summit in Kananaskis, Alberta, last June (see *Canada World View*, Issue 16). Joining Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and his fellow G8 leaders were the presidents of Algeria, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa, as well as United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan. In support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the Summit adopted an ambitious Africa Action Plan. This sets out an enhanced partnership between the G8 and African governments committed to implementing NEPAD, including its provisions regarding democracy, good governance and human rights.

Among the specific commitments under the Action Plan: to promote peace and security; to strengthen institutions and governance; to foster economic growth and sustainable development; to implement debt relief; to expand education and digital opportunities; to improve health and confront HIV/AIDS; to increase agricultural productivity; and to improve water resource management. Up to \$9.5 billion in new

funds for official development assistance will be made available to African countries annually by 2006, and the Summit agreed on a follow-up process to ensure that recipient countries implement NEPAD. African participants at the Summit welcomed the Action Plan, and Secretary-General Annan described it as a potential turning point in the history of Africa.

In addition, Prime Minister Chrétien announced a major package of Canadian initiatives supporting the Action Plan; these include allowing most imports from the least developed countries to enter Canada free of tariffs and quotas as of January 1, 2003.

### Afghanistan ratifies the Ottawa Convention

On September 19, 2002, Afghanistan became the 126th state to complete ratification of the Ottawa Convention banning anti-personnel mines. For the first time this year, Afghanistan attended the annual Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, held in Geneva from September 16 to 20.

The Ottawa Convention is officially known as the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction. The most rapidly ratified multilateral disarmament treaty in history, it was opened for signature in Ottawa in December 1997 and entered into force on March 1, 1999.

Some 737 square kilometres of Afghan territory is affected by mines, posing a clear danger for returning refugees and the local population.

Canada supported the launch of the United Nations' Mine Action Program for Afghanistan (MAPA) in 1990, and it provided more than \$12 million for demining and victim assistance between 1990 and 2001. Canada has recently stepped up its funding for mine action as part of the \$100 million

A Global Ban on Landmines



L'interdiction complète des mines terrestres

### CANADA-LEBANON TIES

(from p. 15)

Bilateral relations between Canada and Lebanon have been strong for many years, reinforced by each country's membership in the United Nations, La Francophonie, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and by the presence of embassies in each other's capitals since 1958. The two countries do business together (including Canadian investment in Lebanon), and have each signed a foreign investment protection agreement as well as a double-taxation agreement.

Aid is another important link. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has supported Lebanon's reconstruction following the 1975-90 civil war, with contributions to date exceeding \$45 million. Through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, CIDA has also provided assistance to Palestinian refugees in the region, 370,000 of whom are registered in Lebanon. Among the other development projects: reforming Lebanon's taxation system in cooperation with the Lebanese Ministry of Finance (the country recently instituted a Value Added Tax based on Canada's Goods and Services Tax); a business administration training program

in cooperation with Lebanon's Hariri Foundation; and training for Lebanese post office personnel through CIDA's Industrial Cooperation Program. The Quebec government has contributed toward a museum on the archaeological site at the 7,000-year-old town of Byblos. The Government of Canada provided over \$4 million in logistical support for the Beirut Summit of La Francophonie.

In recognition of the ties between Canada and Lebanon, the Lebanese government contributed funds to replace many of the trees that had been destroyed in Ottawa's Rockcliffe Park during the historic 1998 ice storm.

## NEWS BRIEFS

photo: Canadian Press CP



A landmine victim is fitted with an artificial arm in Kabul. After two decades of fighting, Afghanistan is one of the world's most heavily mined countries.

package of support for Afghan reconstruction announced in the December 2001 federal budget (see *Canada World View*, Issue 15, p. 18). The Canadian International Development Agency will contribute a total of \$8.5 million to MAPA, the UN's Comprehensive Disabled Afghans' Program and the rehabilitation program of the Guardians Institute of Orthopaedics, which works with disabled people in southern Afghanistan.

### Milestone in ties between Canada and Trinidad and Tobago

In 2002, Canada and Trinidad and Tobago are celebrating a milestone: four decades of diplomatic relations. Over the years, ties between our two

countries have expanded in the areas of trade, culture, arts and education. Youth has always been an important focus of our relationship; for example, Presbyterians from Canada founded the educational system in southern Trinidad. More recently, the Canadian International Development Agency's Canada Fund has assisted Trinidad and Tobago in many youth-related ventures.

One such venture is Camp ABLE—an acronym for “Active Bodies, Leadership and Esteem.” A pilot project held from May 30 to June 2, 2002, in Runnemede, Tobago, this sports leadership development camp was for deaf or hearing-impaired students from the Caribbean. The

volunteer, non-profit program focused on teamwork, cooperation, confidence building, self-esteem and leadership, both in and out of sport. The camp hosted 25 children aged 12 to 15 from Barbados, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago. Six counsellors and five teachers ran the program.

The camp was the brainchild of Heather Moyse, of Summerside, Prince Edward Island—a youth intern on a nine-month assignment from the Commonwealth Games Association of Canada, serving with the Special Education Unit of the Ministry of Education in Trinidad. This year's success raises hope that Camp ABLE will be held annually and will continue to offer opportunities to hearing-impaired children from the region. 🍁

Participants in the Camp ABLE pilot program, Runnemede, Tobago, with Canadian intern Heather Moyse (second row, right)



photo: Canadian High Commission, Port of Spain