

## A Revolution in 18 Days

We have heard the countless news reports about the strikes, protests and rallies taking place in many countries in the Middle East. Egypt's revolution was one uprising attempting to upend undemocratic, tyrannical governments in that part of the world. Much still needs to take place as nations with new-found democracy develop fair and representative leadership. As that unfolds, it is good to be reminded of what took place, and how Egyptians succeeded in getting Hosni Mubarak to step down as President of their country after 30 years.

**Day 1 - January 25:** Egyptians take to the streets calling it a "day of rage". They are inspired by the successful revolution in Tunisia, and protesting poverty, rampant unemployment, government corruption and autocratic governance. Thousands march in downtown Cairo, heading towards the offices of the ruling National Democratic Party. Similar protests are reported in other cities and towns across the country. Hours after the countrywide protests begin, the interior ministry issues a statement blaming the Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's technically banned but largest opposition party - a claim that the Muslim Brotherhood denies.

**Day 2 - January 26:** A protester and a police officer are killed in central Cairo as anti-government demonstrators and security forces clash. Police use tear gas, water cannons and batons to disperse protesters in Cairo.

**Days 3 & 4 - January 27 & 28:** Mohamed ElBaradei, the former head of the UN nuclear watchdog turned democracy advocate, arrives in Egypt to join the protests. ElBaradei says he is ready to "lead the transition" in Egypt if asked. Internet and mobile phone text message users in Egypt



report major disruption to services as the country prepares for a new wave of protests after Friday prayers. Egypt's interior ministry also warns of "decisive measures". Troops are ordered onto the streets, but do not interfere in the confrontations between police and protesters. The riots continue throughout the night, even as Mubarak announces that he dismisses his government.

**Day 5 - January 29:** In a speech delivered shortly after midnight, Mubarak announces that he has sacked the cabinet, but he himself refuses to step down. His whereabouts are unknown. Thousands of anti-government protesters in Cairo's Tahrir Square stand their ground, despite troops firing into the air in a bid to disperse them. Mubarak appoints a vice-president for the first time during his three decades in power - Omar Suleiman is now second in command.

**Day 6 & 7 - January 30 and 31:** Thousands of protesters remain in Cairo's Tahrir Square. The crowds are cheering when ElBaradei addresses protesters in the square, saying "What we started can never be pushed back". Mubarak still refuses to step down, amid growing calls for his resignation. About 250,000 people gather in Cairo's Tahrir Square and hundreds march through Alexandria. Opposition groups continue to call for a "million man march". Meanwhile, the military reiterates that it will not attempt to hurt protesters.

**Day 8 - February 1:** Hosni Mubarak announces in a televised address that he will not run for re-election but refuses to step down from office - the central demand of the protesters. US President Barack Obama praises the Egyptian military for allowing peaceful demonstrations. He says only the Egyptian people can determine their leaders. The number of protesters in Cairo's Tahrir Square surpasses the million mark. Thousands more take to the streets throughout Egypt, including in Alexandria and Suez.

*(Continued on page 3)*



## Earthbeat

is a publication of the Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation. SCIC is a coalition of organizations involved in international development and committed to the recognition of the dignity of all people and their right to self-determination, to the protection of the world's fragile environment, and to the promotion of global understanding, cooperation, peace and justice.

Publication of this newsletter is possible thanks to the generous support provided by Member Agencies and CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency).

We welcome readers' comments and contributions, including donations to help cover production and distribution costs. Put your pen to paper, or your fingers to the keyboard, and send your contributions to: SCIC Newsletter, 2138 McIntyre Street, Regina, SK. S4P 2R7



### SCIC

SASKATCHEWAN COUNCIL  
FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

For more information on the work of SCIC and its Member Agencies, please check out our Web site: [www.earthbeat.sk.ca](http://www.earthbeat.sk.ca) or e-mail: [scic@web.net](mailto:scic@web.net) or call 306-757-4669.

Payment of Earthbeat subscriptions (\$10) and Friends of SCIC donations are welcome anytime!

# SCIC REPORT

Spring is right around the corner (or so we hope!), but SCIC has not been sitting on its hands waiting for warmer weather. Nope, we have been hard at work bringing all sorts of great events and opportunities to Saskatchewan people.

At the end of January SCIC hosted a Youth Media Summit in Saskatoon. This was very well attended, even though the mercury dipped to below -40. Through workshops on 'zine making, radical crafting, journaling, theatre and film, participants walked away with some tangible skills to make change in their community. Film maker Velcrow Ripper opened and closed the Summit. On Friday SCIC screened his film *Fierce Light* and he did a short Q & A. To close the Summit Velcrow provided leadership in a very well received workshop called "Unleashing Your Fierce Dream".

SCIC would like to thank all those who participated in the Summit, many traveling from Regina, Prince Albert and Onion Lake. A special thank you goes out to the workshop leaders – Tracey Mitchell, Angela Edmunds, Shayna Stock and Niku Arbabi, (who left balmy Texas and braved a very cold week in Saskatchewan). You can read more about the Summit from a participant's perspective on page 6.

From February 6-12 SCIC ran a very successful International Development Week campaign. Our youth campaign featured 8 amazing young people from this province who are working hard to make a difference. Short biographies of these youth can be found on pages 4-5, and videos can be seen on the SCIC website, [www.earthbeat.sk.ca](http://www.earthbeat.sk.ca).

The events we held throughout the week were very well received and attended. We kicked off the week with a proclamation



Athiann and Whitney, with John Crawford at the Global Citizen Award Gala in Saskatoon.

event at Regina City Hall. The Regina Global Citizen Award winners, their friends and family, recognized youth, SCIC board members, and members of the media gathered to celebrate the good work being done, and discuss what more needs to take place to make this world more just.

In Saskatoon Global Citizen Award winners John Crawford, and John and Betsy Bury were honoured for the work. This was a fantastic evening held in the Bassment night club. Canada World Youth had a photo exhibit on display and delicious Middle Eastern snacks were enjoyed. Closing off the week, Regina held an awards ceremony and dinner to honour Catherine Verrall, and Arnold and Bertha Epp. Nearly 100 people attended this event, and a spicy Indian supper was enjoyed by (almost) everyone.

The Canadian International Development Agency has been in the news a lot in the last several months. Many SCIC supporters have been asking about the status of our funding with CIDA. Currently SCIC receives a majority of its funding through CIDA and this grant will end on March 31, 2011. SCIC has applied for another 3 year grant commencing April 1, 2011. SCIC will be meeting with CIDA officials at the beginning of March to gain some insights into the status of that proposal. We remain hopeful we will be funded and continue providing fantastic international development programming to our members and others in Saskatchewan.



Arnold, Catherine, Stephanie, Debra, Kerrie, Bruno and Bertha at the Regina Proclamation Event at City Hall.

**KALEIDOSCOPE**  
DÉFI VIDÉO / REAL WORLD VIDEO CHALLENGE

# REAL WORLD VIDEO CHALLENGE!

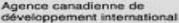
AN ONLINE CONTEST FOR YOUTH - AGES 18 AND UNDER

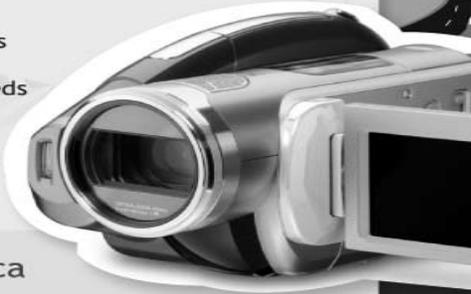
**Are you an active global citizen?  
Got something to say?  
We are all ears!**

Submit a short video telling us why you care about global issues and what you think needs to be done!

You could win a video camera and a trip to Ottawa.

Deadline: March 31, 2011  
For more information:  
[www.videochallenge.ca](http://www.videochallenge.ca)

 Canadian International Development Agency  Agence canadienne de développement international



Canada

## You could be \$500 richer!

The deadline is getting closer, and SCIC has \$1000 in prizes available! It is so easy!

- 1) Think about what you are doing or what you would want to do to change the world.
- 2) Make a short video – use a camcorder, digital camera, web cam, even a cell phone!
- 3) Enter it online [www.videochallenge.ca](http://www.videochallenge.ca)
- 4) Listen for contest winners announced in May.

There are two \$500 prizes up for grabs, plus a trip to Ottawa!  
Contact SCIC if you have any questions.

## The Earthbeat is going ELECTRONIC!



The times are a changing, and in order for SCIC to keep sharing stories about international development, helping Saskatchewan people stay informed about local initiatives, and profiling the work of SCIC and our members we need to lower the cost of the Earthbeat. The easiest way for us to do this is to print fewer copies. We also hope that by distributing the Earthbeat electronically more people will read it and be inspired to change the world!

If you would like to start receiving Earthbeat in your inbox please send your email address to [communications@earthbeat.sk.ca](mailto:communications@earthbeat.sk.ca). Also include your mailing address so we can remove it from our list.

If you are attached to these fantastic yellow pages, that is ok too. We will keep mailing it to you unless we hear otherwise.

**Thanks for reading the Earthbeat!**

We hope to keep telling stories to change the world for years to come.

## A Revolution in 18 Days

*(Continued from front page)*

**Days 9 to 16 – February 2 to 9:** Internet services are at least partially restored in Cairo after a five-day blackout aimed at stymieing protests. Bursts of heavy gunfire aimed at anti-government demonstrators in Tahrir Square leave at least five people dead and several more wounded. Hundreds of thousands of anti-government protesters gather in Cairo's Tahrir Square. Banks officially re-open for 3.5 hours, and traffic police are back on the streets in Cairo, in attempts to get the capital to return to normal. Thousands are camping out in Tahrir Square, refusing to budge. Egypt's government approves a 15 per cent raise in salaries and pensions in a bid to appease the angry masses. Tahrir Square now resembles a tented camp. Omar Suleiman warns that his government "can't put up with continued protests" for a long time. Separately, Suleiman also announces a slew of constitutional and legislative reforms. Thirty-four political prisoners were released. Human Rights Watch says that 302 people have been killed since the start of Egypt's pro-democracy uprising.

**Day 17 – February 10:** Amid rumors that he will be stepping down tonight, Mubarak gives a televised speech where he repeats his promise to not run in the next presidential elections. Protesters in Tahrir Square react with fury when Mubarak says he's remaining in power until September. Protesters wave their shoes in the air, and demand the army join them in revolt.

**Day 18 – February 11:** Hosni Mubarak resigns as president and hands over power to the army.

**February 12:** People celebrate in Tahrir Square until early morning. The country's new military rulers promise to hand power to an elected, civilian government and pledged that Egypt will remain committed to all international treaties.

*\*Information and photos from Al Jazeera*

# Saskatchewan Youth

As part of our International Development Week campaign this year, SCIC recognized 8 young people who are working in Saskatchewan and overseas to make a difference in the world. These youth were nominated by people in their community who see their passion and drive, and want to hold them up as inspiration. The puzzle motif of the campaign is to emphasize that everyone holds a piece of the solution – we all need to work, and to work together, to make a difference! These young people have accomplished a lot; the following bios are just a taste. Go to [www.earthbeat.sk.ca](http://www.earthbeat.sk.ca) to read more, and watch their video profiles.



My name is **Bruno Hernani** and I'm originally from Peru where I studied industrial engineering. I moved to Canada in 2005 to pursue a master's degree in environmental science.

My passion led me to found many projects around the world, including a non-profit organization in Regina, called GreenRoots Sustainable Living. GreenRoots seeks to generate development through traditional knowledge of sustainable practices to reduce poverty. I believe knowledge empowers people to step forward and take action in their communities... and that little actions can change the whole world.

My name is **Alexis Nyandwi** and I am a 27-year old Rwandan-born Canadian citizen. When the Rwandan civil war started, my family and I fled to Kenya. At 18, I left my family behind and came to Canada. In 2006, I started Room for Improvement Youth Development with the aim to help combat youth poverty worldwide.

One of our projects was making the film Kumva Neza ("to better understand") which documented nine University of Saskatchewan students' journeys to East Africa. I am motivated to make a difference by these words, "One love, one world, our destiny!"



**Shayna Stock** is an activist, writer, community builder and editor/publisher of *Briarpatch* magazine, a non-profit national publication based in Regina, Saskatchewan.

Over the past three years, Shayna's leadership has helped *Briarpatch* build on its legacy as one of the country's leading independent voices on issues of social and environmental justice. Shayna has studied and volunteered in Costa Rica, El Salvador, India and Ghana, where she helped start an afterschool journalism program at a girls' school.

Now rooted in Regina, Shayna has turned her efforts toward fostering community and sustainability at home.



**Nichole Huck** hails from Glenavon, Saskatchewan and studied journalism at the University of Regina.

In 2005 she travelled to Thailand and worked with Thai NGO's making video documentaries about human rights in Burma. She then came home and toured a photography show about life inside the Thai-Burma refugee camps as well

as becoming a host for a Burmese family who came to Saskatchewan as refugees.

Nichole gives a voice to people from other countries in the stories she tells and today she makes a difference by helping people right in her own backyard.

# Making a Difference

My name is **Stephanie Hildebrand**. Along with Reg Forbes, Bradley Swayze and Tarren Saleski, we founded a program called Global Students Helping Students (GSHS).

Who would have guessed that 12 students from all across Saskatchewan's rural small towns would be in Mae Sot, Thailand building a school a decade later?

Since then, GSHS has built two schools, given away more than 1000 pounds of relief supplies and donated thousands of dollars.

We redefined success, instead of making a lot of money, we see the road to happiness starts and ends with giving what we can.



**Whitney Robson** grew up on a farm north of Rosetown, Saskatchewan.

While volunteering with a Tuberculosis research unit in the townships of Tygerberg, South Africa following high school, Whitney found her passion for the defence and promotion of human rights... and the realization that not all people are afforded these rights. She later went on to revive the Amnesty International Group at the University of Saskatchewan and became involved with Oxfam.

Whitney strongly believes that everyone has a stake in the well being of their community and that we all have opportunities to get involved.



My name is **Victor Das** and I'm from Kolkata, India. I'm a graduate student researcher at the University of Saskatchewan.

One of the areas of my research interest is the introduction and adoption of new varieties of crops and medicines with the objective of improving global access to affordable vaccines against life-threatening diseases. I'm also very concerned about the issues of peak oil, climate change and economic dependence.

I have witnessed the potential of local movements for change, such as Saskatoon's Transition Town, and hope to start a similar movement in Kolkata sometime this year.



**Athiann Makuach Garang** is a University of Saskatchewan civil engineering student with a passion for poetry and education.

As a child, he left his family behind in war-torn Sudan and lived in refugee camps around Africa. Today, Athiann helps Canadian immigrants learn English and Canadian culture. A published poet, he also volunteers with Wanda International Guest House, a non-profit organization that helps refugees start a new life.

After graduation, Athiann hopes to use his skills to help rebuild Southern Sudan, but in the meantime he's making a big difference here.



## Creating Media, Creating Change

by Andrea Dorosh

**C**hange. Change is everywhere! Sometimes change comes when we don't want it, and sometimes we may not see it coming and it sweeps us from a rut and redirects our life. The world needs change. As Albert Einstein once said, "We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them". SCIC's Youth Media Summit in Saskatoon this past January was all about change, about doing things differently – stepping outside the box, exploring creativity, breaking down barriers, and finding and using our inner strengths.

In a world increasingly driven by technology, media activism offers alternative ways to promote human rights, shed light on environmental concerns, express political opinion, and give an outlet to civil outrage. There are a growing number of ways to communicate with the rest of the world, to share stories, ideas, to start a revolution, to empathize, and to work in solidarity.

Kicking the weekend off I attended a screening of *"Fierce Light: Where Spirit Meets Action"*, film-maker and activist Velcrow Ripper's latest film. I watched shocking footage of protests met with police violence. Witnessing the unwavering strength of people I found myself fully gripped by emotion. The film concentrates on our connection with universal love, what Ripper calls 'fierce light', which moves us to stand up and fight for what we believe in. It underlined the privilege I enjoy – living in a country where I can raise my voice without fearing for my life.

We gathered – myself and nearly 70 other young people – at SCIC's Youth Media Summit on Saturday and Sunday to participate in dynamic workshops us-



*Cutting and pasting at the 'zine creation workshop.*

ing film, theatre, zine-making, journaling, and radical crafting to learn different ways we can become the media; sharing our stories and making change. Over two days at Oskayak High School in Saskatoon we explored communication, technology and creative activism.

I spent Saturday in a journaling workshop led by Shayna Stock, editor/publisher of *Briarpatch Magazine*. Of all the workshops offered, journaling was the most introspective. Through introspection we are able to create the foundation for our activism. A journal becomes a tool for stimulating thoughts and ideas. By engaging in writing free from expectation and judgement, we begin to make sense of confusion in our lives, and we can dig deeper into questions about purpose, and how we can make the most out of life in a way that benefits not only ourselves but also the rest of the world.

On Sunday I took part in the radical crafting workshop hosted by Niku Arbabi, a unique, creative and wacky crafter/zine-maker hailing from Austin Texas. The fabulous and adorable homemade, hand-stitched bag that I constructed from nothing more than an old pillowcase was a notable perk of the workshop. But more importantly, Niku's workshop explored ways to express ourselves, our politics and our philosophies creatively for the whole world to see! We talked about deconstructing and reusing materials you already have, moving away from consumerism and dependency towards self-sufficiency and self-expression... not to mention creating constructive ways to spend time, share stories, and innovate!

The Media Summit wrapped up beautifully on Sunday with a Fierce Dream workshop led by Velcrow Ripper. Bringing the weekend full-circle, we explored the big question, Who are you? Glimpsing at our deeper, fundamental connection to the whole universe and all its complexities, we imagined our 'fierce dream', what we would do if we could do anything and there was nothing holding us back. From there we developed an action plan to make our dream a reality.

The weekend challenged us to step out of our comfort zones and experiment, to explore those aspects of ourselves we wish to know better, and to perhaps discover hidden gems and strengths within ourselves. We begin to see our potential to live passionately, with compassion, expression, and empathy. We start to understand how change is possible and how to be a part of it.

*Andrea is a budding media activist and yoga enthusiast. She is currently working at SCIC as a YMCA Intern.*

## SCIC MEMBER PROFILE

# Saskatoon Peace Coalition

The Saskatoon Peace Coalition (SPC) is a non-partisan and diverse organization of individuals and representatives of peace groups in Saskatoon. It is committed to education and action for peace. Founded in 2001, the Coalition unites people in an effort to build peace in our families, communities, and world. The SPC is a volunteer organization of stalwart members and a small executive. Although the Peace Coalition has no official motto, the SPC approach is summed up as “If you want peace, you must also work for justice.”

Since 2001, the SPC has hosted and co-sponsored a number of peace events including four major “Making Peace” conferences, teach-ins, rallies and demonstration marches, Musicians for Peace, Writers for Peace, film screenings, public lectures and more. It has pro-

moted, educated, and acted for peace from a number of perspectives. Themes that have been dominant throughout that time include the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, violence against women, Israel Palestine relations, nuclear weapons, and peace education.

The SPC has a core annual programme as follows: In March an anti-war event or campaign to coincide with the anniversary of the Iraq invasion; in August an event to commemorate the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; in September a Musicians for Peace or Writers for Peace event on the UN World Peace Day; and in November support for events that draw attention to violence against women, especially aboriginal women. In addition to this core programme, the SPC also organizes events as situations emerge that call for peaceful resolution.



*Peace Coalition members in a march for peace in Afghanistan and Iraq.*

The current peace campaign organized by the SPC concerns the federal government's plans to purchase sixty-five F-35 bombers. The SPC wants Canadians to be aware of this issue as it would be the largest military expenditure in Canadian history. These bombers are weapons of extreme violence and are not the right

aircraft for Canada. We are informing people about the issue through a flyer, our blog, and our Facebook page. We are asking people in Saskatoon to phone their MP and tell them they oppose the purchase.

Plans for the future include a celebration of the SPC's tenth anniversary. We are planning an event for the fall of 2011 to celebrate our first decade. We acknowledge with great appreciation the support we have received from SCIC since our inception.

The Saskatoon Peace Coalition has monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:15 PM in the Catholic Family Services Lounge in the YWCA Community Services Village. These meetings are where our activities and events are planned. Anyone with an interest in peace is welcome to their meetings.

For more information, visit: [www.saskatoonpeace.tk](http://www.saskatoonpeace.tk) or find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/saskatoonpeace](http://www.facebook.com/saskatoonpeace).



*Participants of the Writers for Peace event sponsored by the Saskatoon Peace Coalition, Saskatoon Writers Coop, and Saskatoon Public Library.*



# SCIC

SASKATCHEWAN COUNCIL

FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

2138 McIntyre Street  
Regina, SK. S4P2R7

## Upcoming Opportunities & Events

### TUESDAY, MARCH 8

#### International Women's Day!

Celebrate 100 years of International Women's Day. There are events all over Saskatchewan. Go to [www.internationalwomensday.com](http://www.internationalwomensday.com) to find out more!

### THURSDAY, MARCH 10

#### Apathy into Action

##### Gwynne Dyer Lecture:

##### *Crawling from the Wreckage*

7:30 pm. University of Regina, Classroom Building 110, REGINA

Gwynne will speak about his new book, *Crawling from the Wreckage*. What happens in the Arab world now that American troops have pulled out of Iraq? Would terrorism really get worse if the West just pulled out of Afghanistan too? What needs to be done about Iran? About oil? What will happen to Israel? And can Obama really deliver on the climate front?

This is a free event brought to you by SCIC and RPIRG. For more info call 757-4669 or email [communications@earthbeat.sk.ca](mailto:communications@earthbeat.sk.ca)

### FRIDAY, MARCH 11

#### Apathy into Action

##### Social Justice Mini- Sessions

9:30 am-4:30 pm. University of Regina, Research and Innovation Building Atrium (new Lab Building)

There will be 7 sessions, for 50 mins each. These are drop-in and open to everyone. Come for the session you are most interested in, or stay all day! Topics include: poverty in Regina, slow food, transitioning off oil, sexual health and more! A full schedule will be posted on SCIC's and RPIRG's websites.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 12

#### Apathy into Action

##### Full Day Skills Workshops

10 am-5 pm. University of Regina. Pre- registration is required.

Two workshops are being offered.

**Conflict Transformation** and **Anti-Oppression Training**. Due to the nature of the workshops participants will have to choose one, and they will be in that session all day.

In order to have enough food for lunch, and to ensure sessions are not too large, we are asking that those attending a Saturday workshop pre-register. Registration can be done online on either the SCIC or RPIRG websites. ([www.earthbeat.sk.ca](http://www.earthbeat.sk.ca) or [www.rpirg.org](http://www.rpirg.org)).

For more information contact SCIC 757-4669 or email [communications@earthbeat.sk.ca](mailto:communications@earthbeat.sk.ca)

### THROUGHOUT MARCH

#### Environmental Film Festival(s)

The Saskatchewan Eco Network, along with several other organizations are presenting Environmental Film Festivals in:

Regina – March 4-5

Swift Current – March 19

Saskatoon – April 1-3

Prince Albert – Dates TBA

For more information see [www.econet.sk.ca](http://www.econet.sk.ca)

### SATURDAY, MARCH 26

#### Best Practices in Public Engagement and Evaluation

10 am-5 pm. Location TBA.

SASKATOON

SCIC is excited to be bringing Public Engagement practitioner Michael Stephens to Saskatchewan for this 1 day event intended for SCIC members and others in the community who do public engagement for global justice and environmental issues. Come learn tips on how to run successful campaigns and events, and to evaluate what impact it has had on those who participated. More information will be coming out in the next few weeks. Contact SCIC will any questions.

### THURSDAY, MARCH 31

#### Kaleidoscope Video Challenge Deadline!!

Enter your videos online! Prizes, travel, glory! What have you got to lose? [www.videochallenge.ca](http://www.videochallenge.ca)

### FRIDAY, APRIL 22

#### Earth Day 2011

Celebrate our home – Earth!  
[www.earthday.ca](http://www.earthday.ca)

SCIC, along with our members, will also be holding a number of other events throughout March and April. Keep reading the SCIC online