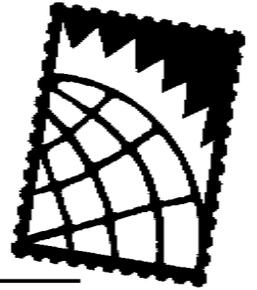


# Earthbeat



SCIC NEWSLETTER SASKATCHEWAN COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

January/February 2011

## Paying it forward

By Nichole Huck

Three years ago I was living on the other side of the world, volunteering at a local Radio station in Tamale, Northern Ghana.

My work at the radio station included producing a weekly human rights radio show. One week, I had worked with a local junior high journalism club on a special show about barriers to education. Two of the girls we interviewed talked about how they couldn't pay their fees, or buy books and how they would go without food at school and walk for an hour each way because they couldn't afford taxi fare. When the show was all over I promised them that I would figure out a way for them to go to school, even if I had to pay for it myself.

A few weeks later, a young man named Taufik showed up at the station and asked to speak with me. He told me he is a cousin to Rafia, one of the girls I had promised to help. He brought his report card, and showed it to me shyly. Taufik's parents are both dead and his aunt has been helping take care of him; but her job selling tiny bags of water in the market didn't give her enough to support her own children, let alone pay for Taufik to continue his schooling.

Over the next few weeks we filled out the paper work he needed to apply for school. He brought me to meet his aunt and to the mechanics shop he had worked to earn enough money to pay his high school fees. Finally, we went to the bank to open up an education savings fund. When we left the bank, Taufik was fighting back tears. I asked him what was wrong, he said he never let himself dream this would happen. He told me he might never be able to pay me back.



Nichole in Ghana with Taufik, and Rafia.

I had come to an understanding; we all need a little help once in a while. Many people had helped me make the long journey from Canada without expecting anything in return. Scholarships helped me pay for University, which in turn meant I could earn a decent wage, which meant I had the luxury of volunteering overseas. And I've always known that even if things got really tough, my family would be there to pick me up. My payment would be his success, because I know if he is able to earn a decent living, he will help a lot more people than I ever could or would.

That was two years ago, and Taufik is now in his third year of study in Rural Medicine. He sends me frequent updates about his classes and his grades (Mostly A's and B's), and about how his cousin Rafia is managing at school. He

also calls every once and a while just to say hello.

I'm in Regina right now. I've got a steady job and a mortgage, but I've also got an incredible community of people who don't mind sacrificing some of their party or vacation money to help a kid in need.

We don't have to leave our home to make a world of difference. Maybe it is spending time with a local refugee family who is still learning the ropes, maybe it's giving money to a local charity that does work overseas. We give what we can, when we can, and the world is better because of it.

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*Nichole Huck spends her days working with CBC Radio in Regina. She believes you can make a difference in the world by starting in your own backyard.*



## 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

In wind, rain, sleet and snow SCIC has been working hard over the last several months on all sorts of international development activities. Thank you to all those who participate in our events, subscribe to this *Earthbeat*, and financially support SCIC's work. The past year has been full of success, joy and justice!

Just in case you missed out in the last few months, here are some of the things happening at SCIC:

Our 2011 Global Action Calendars are hot off the presses, and are looking for walls to hang on! This year's theme is Media is Changing the World. The calendar explores several types of media from TV to texting, books to blogging, sharing examples from all over the world and talking about media evolution throughout time. Contact SCIC today to find out how you can get a calendar of your very own.

When you call SCIC to inquire about calendars you may have the chance to talk to one of SCIC's fantastic interns. Tamarah Olarie and Andrea Dorosh are both in YMCA supported internships with SCIC. Tamarah has been with us since August and we will be saying goodbye in early February. Andrea is new to the team, and will be a part of SCIC from December until March. These wonderful women will be (and have been) working on a variety of projects with SCIC.

At the end of October SCIC was proud to be a sponsor of Regina's first Human Rights Film Festival. Over three evenings fantastic films were shown, and great speakers shared their wisdom on the particular topics. We look forward to this becoming an annual event.

In November Saskatchewan played host to several international visitors, here to talk about development in their particular context. SCIC was pleased to be able to provide support for the groups that organized their visits. First Regina saw three people from West Papua, Indonesia. Working on issues such as environmental degradation, HIV/AIDS and women's empowerment these amazing individuals shared their stories and insights from working on the ground in this small island nation. Our second

guest was a woman named Carmen Bahena Bahena from Cuernavaca Mexico. Over a delicious traditional Mexican lunch Carmen shared the successes and challenges of the Centre she works for in Mexico. Finally, Oxfam organized a tour of representatives from the Association of Men Against Violence of Nicaragua for the end of November. However the embassy denied their visas and left Oxfam intern, Anna Clara, to go through the presentation they had intended to give. Overall, it was still a great success -Saskatchewan people were informed about the gender equality issues in Nicaragua and here in Canada.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Holiday Open House in December. It was SCIC's busiest Open House in years, and was a lot of fun.

Finally, thank you to all those who made donations to SCIC in 2010. We depend on the support of generous Saskatchewan residents who value global justice, environmental sustainability, and the cooperation of many to see these goals achieved. We hope you will consider giving in 2011. To make your donation simple we have a link to our Canada Helps page on the top right corner of our website, [www.earthbeat.sk.ca](http://www.earthbeat.sk.ca). If you have any questions please contact us!



Visitors from West Papua at the First Nations University in Regina.

# Global Poverty Survey Results!

One of SCIC's highlights of 2010 was the result of a province wide survey on global poverty conducted by Angus Reid. Saskatchewan residents ranked global poverty #1 amongst other global issues, and 81% of Saskatchewan people think that the kind of international development work that international development NGOs undertake is the most effective way to aid in global poverty reductions.

Here are some other key findings:

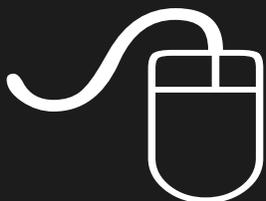
- 44% cite poverty as top global issue
- 40% want to help alleviate global poverty
- 60% feel everybody has a responsibility to help those in need
- 72% think the province should address global poverty and 58% support the Saskatchewan Matching Grants Program
- 56% think Saskatchewan's national and international reputation would be enhanced through engagement in reducing global poverty

You can read more about the survey results on our website, [www.earthbeat.sk.ca](http://www.earthbeat.sk.ca).



*Kristine Neil, of Vision Critical-Angus Reid, explains survey results to SCIC members, media, and Government of Saskatchewan representatives at the launch on December 8 in Regina.*

## 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.

# Global Citizen International Development

## Arnold & Bertha Epp

Arnold and Bertha Epp have worked tirelessly for decades both at home and overseas to improve the lives of others. Their work with The Sharing Way, the relief and development department of Canadian Baptist Ministries has helped to respond to needs and disasters around the world. For the past several years through Saskatchewan Baptist Churches, Arnold and Bertha have organized an Annual Missions Encounter event that raises awareness of important international development issues as well as money for special projects in Africa and South America. Their work as founders, early board members and supporters of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank helped the organization to become Canada's foremost agency devoted to food aid, food security and nutrition.

Through management of conversational English classes, Arnold and Bertha have become mentors for many visiting students, scholars and immigrants, helping them settle into life, jobs and professions in our city and the province. The Epps have worked in collaboration to successfully bring and settle families from Eritrea and Somalia. Their achievements are both humbling and honourable as their service, through so many years, has been purely volunteer.

"Their hearts are turned consistently outward toward others, regardless of race or culture, they walk consistently where others only talk, their humble and quiet ways allow others to feel valued and loved, regardless of cultural barriers." – Ron Phillips, Sr. Pastor, Argyle Baptist Church



*Global Citizen Arnold Epp speaks with Deputy Speaker Greg Brkich at NGO Day in May 2010.*

## Catherine Verrall

Catherine and her late husband Arthur, a United Church Minister, have worked in inner city missions, were active in the civil rights movement and worked closely with aboriginal people for many decades. It was the continuous learning from the traditional wisdom of aboriginal people that led Catherine to become a passionate advocate for ecological, social and economic justice. Catherine understands that all beings are interconnected in the circle of life, and that the well being of humans depends on the health of our natural environment. To this end, Catherine works tirelessly to educate, inspire and mobilize the public through her work with many organizations including the Intercultural Grandmothers Uniting, Kairos, Transport Action Canada, Regina Citizens' Public Transit Coalition, Briarpatch Magazine, the Raging Grannies and many more. She was instrumental in the founding of the Making Peace Vigil, and co-organized the very successful Making Peace with Earth Conference. Catherine's persistent and tireless work in front of and behind the scenes has led her to network with thousands of individuals, to speak with

politicians at every level of government, to being cited on radio and television, and published in newspapers, magazines and books. Among her many accolades, Catherine has won the YWCA's Women of Distinction Award, the Saskatchewan EcoNetwork's Environmental Activist Award and was voted the Best Citizen Activist/Best Volunteer by *Prairie Dog Magazine*.

"Although Catherine speaks very well, she does not waste words just talking about social and environmental rights and responsibilities, she leads by example." – Bonnie Morton, Anti-Poverty Minister/Advocate.

"Catherine is not one to sit back and complain about conditions, if she sees something that should be changed she goes about trying to do just that." – Joan Baliko, Knox-Metropolitan United Church

## John and Betsy Bury

John and Betsy Bury are a prominent social activist couple from Saskatoon that have been committed to building a better world through decades of community involvement and leadership. The Bury's work spans many important social justice causes through their participation in several grassroots organizations including the Saskatoon Peace Coalition, Veterans Against Nuclear Arms, the Saskatoon Food Coalition and the Saskatoon Community Clinic. Their dedication to peace and nuclear disarmament, poverty reduction, food security and community health makes them true global citizens.

"...We admire your commitment to building a better world... Your firm insistence on the need for continued peace work in our city was very instrumental in the Coalition's transition from a one-shot wonder to an ongoing vehicle for peace work..." – excerpt from the Saskatoon Peace Coalition's tribute to John and Betsy.

# ns Awards & opment Week 2011

## John Crawford

John is one of the unsung heroes of international development and has been active in social justice for many decades. John is a retired ordained minister of the United Church of Canada with a keen interest in First Nations people. At the municipal level John takes part in commemorating the birthday of the United Nations through a flag raising ceremony every October 24 and he succeeded in having the Mayor of Saskatoon be-

come an International Mayor for Peace in 2007. John's dedication to achieving a peaceful world is evident through his membership in Project Ploughshares, Veterans Against Nuclear Arms and the Saskatoon Peace Coalition. Through the Saskatoon Peace Coalition John helped to organize several very successful Making Peace Conferences in Saskatoon, including one featuring Setsuko Thurlow, a hibakusha, a survivor of the bombing of Hiroshima. Setsuko's stories of the horrors of nuclear war led

John to take the lead on the annual Hiroshima and Nagasaki Day Commemorations to remind people how important peace is for people, the environment and to achieve true, lasting global justice.

"His work with Hiroshima Nagasaki Day Commemorations is intended to keep awareness of nuclear weapons alive, to ensure that we know what such weapons have cost and continue to cost our society." - Lynn Hainsworth, Commemoration Committee.

## Saskatoon Global Citizen Award Recognition Night

Thursday, February 10, 2011

The Bassment

202-4th Avenue North, Saskatoon

7:00-9:00 pm - Refreshments and cash bar.

Free admission, donations graciously accepted.

Global Citizen Award winners John Crawford, and John and Betsy Bury will be recognized for their work on peace, justice and equality issues in Saskatchewan. Additionally, a new video featuring 8 inspirational Saskatchewan youth will be shown.



## Regina Global Citizen Award Gala

Saturday, February 12, 2011

St. James Anglican Church, 1105 Empress Street, Regina

5:30 pm - Cocktails

6:00 pm - Supper (delicious Indian Cuisine)

Tickets are \$25 and should be bought in advance by calling 757-4669 or emailing scic@earthbeat.sk.ca.

Global Citizen Award winners Catherine Verrall, and Arnold and Bertha Epp will be recognized for their work on the environment, poverty, and with new Canadians. Additionally, a new video featuring 8 inspirational Saskatchewan youth will be shown.

## Are You Making a Difference?

Well these 8 young people from Saskatchewan certainly are. Through videos, photos and written stories, SCIC want to share the passion and insights of these youth. They are acting as inspiration and examples for how we all could think more globally, and act more locally.

### The 8 youth are...

#### Regina based:

Bruno Hernani

Stephanie Hildebrand

Nichole Huck

Shayna Stock

#### Saskatoon based:

Athiann Garang

Whitney Robson

Victor Das

Alexis Nyandwi

Read more about these amazing youth in the next issue of the *Earthbeat* and on the SCIC website!

# SCIC Youth

## Hope Revived!



University of Regina student, Jacob Panchol.

**M**y name is Jacob Panchol and I am 22 years old. I came to the University of Regina in August of this year under the WUSC Refugee program. I am originally from Sudan but lived in Kenya for 18 years before coming to Canada. While in Kenya I was living in the Kakuma refugee camp. I was able to get an education in the camp starting in pre-school and continuing up to high school. The living conditions in the camp were not good, there were poor health care facilities, lack of adequate security with the host community often looting refugees at night, and a lack of adequate food and water. Some students would go to school with an empty stomach when their food that was rationed for 15 days was finished. Apart from that, the heat during the day in Kakuma was intense and often unbearable with the scorching sun mixed with dusty winds.

I hope that this is not the very first time that you have heard about Kakuma and if it is, then imagine living in such conditions and you will definitely accept what it meant for someone like me to come to Canada and more importantly secure admission to the University of Regina. I personally take it as a once in a lifetime opportunity. While in the camp, my dreams of

getting any higher education were crushed since there was no university in the camp. My hopes were revived when I found out about the WUSC refugee program and I began to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Securing sponsorship through WUSC is a little bit of a nightmare for most of the students in the refugee camps. This is because it is very competitive and there are only 25 successful applicants selected out of over 100 applicants. This doesn't mean that those who don't make it through do not have the potential, they do, but each year there are not enough spots to take all of the applicants. I wish that the number sponsored each year would be increased to at least 30 to open doors for other students.

Although I miss my family members, it doesn't matter because what matters most now is that I do well in all of my university courses. Being in university has guaranteed me three things – I will overcome poverty when I graduate, I will no longer be ignorant and I will no longer be illiterate. These three things are the cause of pain being experienced in much of the world and the best way to win the battle against them is simply through EDUCATION!!

I credit WUSC for improving who I am and contributing to who I will become. I am now in my preliminary courses for my major in engineering.

# Development and Peace

**D**evelopment and Peace has been striving to build greater justice in the Global South for over 40 years now. The organization does this in two ways: by supporting local grassroots organizations that are working towards social change in their respective countries and by creating awareness amongst Canadians of the root causes of poverty.

The organization was founded in 1967 by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops as an instrument of social justice. Its works are inspired by Catholic social teaching, particularly the 'preferential option for the poor' which stresses compassion and dignity for the most poor and vulnerable of the world.

Guided by this vision, the organization works in over 30 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East defending and strengthening the rights of the most marginalized, including women, peasants, indigenous communities and the landless.

Development and Peace has been present in Saskatchewan for several decades and the dedication and generosity of its Saskatchewan members are sources of positive energy for the organization. These members actively participate in yearly awareness and fundraising campaigns, always putting in maximum effort to create greater justice in the world.

This year, Development and Peace is raising awareness of the dangerous global trend to privatize water sources and is asking Canadians to take a personal pledge to

give up bottled water. In Saskatchewan, some members are even approaching their municipal council to discourage the use of bottled water in municipal buildings. The town of Maple Creek recently set a great example by passing a motion to create 'bottled water free zones' in part due to this campaign.

These actions show the solidarity of Canadians with the Global South. Development and Peace strengthens those ties by inviting members on solidarity trips, where they get to see first-hand the work being carried out by Development and Peace partners and gain a better understanding of the realities in which they live.

Recently, a group of Saskatchewan members travelled with regional animator Armella Sonntag to Cambodia. They went to villages struggling with land rights, social exclusion, environmental degradation and other social issues, but that are receiving support from local organizations to make positive changes and defend their rights.

In the village of Chromeang Chas, they saw how the organization Youth Development Resource Program (YDRP), which empowers Cambodian youth to be involved in the sustainable and equitable development of

their country, is making a difference. "Before YRDP and its core group of students became involved, this community was plagued by robbery, domestic violence, illegal fishing practices, etc. Thanks to a dedicated group of university students and staff at YRDP, the village members and the commune council for the area are now working together to address the various social and economic challenges facing them. It is truly a success story," reported Kathy Nolan, one of the trip participants.

After her journey, Kathy returned to Canada all the more motivated in the struggle to create a fair world.

"In reflecting on all of the people I have met and learned from during the past two weeks, I am inspired by the strength, knowledge, and perseverance of Development and Peace's partners in Cambodia. Their dedication to development in Cambodia gives me a renewed sense of commitment to my own advocacy and fund raising work with D&P in Canada."

To get involved or to learn more about upcoming events call our regional office at 306 937-7675.



*Development and Peace members from Saskatchewan with a group of youth in Cambodia.*



# SCIC

SASKATCHEWAN COUNCIL  
FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION  
2138 McIntyre Street  
Regina, SK. S4P2R7

## Upcoming Opportunities & Events

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 28

#### **Fierce Light: When Spirit Meets Action. Film Screening with film maker Velcrow Ripper**

7:00 pm. Broadway Theatre,  
715 Broadway Ave., SASKATOON  
Martin Luther King called it "love in action". Ghandi's phrase was "soul force".

Filmmaker Velcrow Ripper calls it "fierce light" – a combination of spirituality and activism that he sees gathering strength on a global level. This is what his hopeful new movie, *Fierce Light: When Spirit Meets Action*, attempts to illuminate.

The death of a friend during a peaceful protest is the catalyst for investigation at the beginning of *Fierce Light: When Spirit Meets Action*. Despite this tragedy, Ripper senses a sea change, a growing general consciousness that, "Another world is possible." So can spirituality coexist with social activism?

His journey of discovery begins in the deep American south, where monuments to the civil rights movement introduce Alice Walker and Congressman John Lewis, among others, in conversations about racism, determination and love in the midst of hate.

En route, Ripper encounters a number of eloquent icons, including actor turned activist Daryl Hannah, Nobel prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Pulitzer Prize Winning Author Alice Walker, Buddhist peace activist monk Thich Nhat Hahn, famed tree sitter Julia Butterfly Hill, and dharma punk, Noah Levine.

Velcrow Ripper will be present at the screening and doing a short Q & A following the film. For more on the film see [www.fiercelight.org](http://www.fiercelight.org)

### JANUARY 29-30

#### **Generating Momentum: Youth Media Summit – SASKATOON**

Pre-registration is required. This 2 day summit will get you excited about doing media activism in your community. We will be welcoming film maker Velcrow Ripper as a key note speaker and workshop facilitator, along with many other workshop presenters from all over North America. Skills building sessions on theatre, written word, film making, 'zine creation and more will be offered!

This unique summit is a fantastic opportunity that does not come to Saskatchewan very often, plus it is completely free! However, space is limited, so please register today. Registrations can be found on the SCIC website and filled out online, [www.earthbeat.sk.ca](http://www.earthbeat.sk.ca). For more information contact Vicki (306)757-4669 or [communications@earthbeat.sk.ca](mailto:communications@earthbeat.sk.ca)

### FEBRUARY 6-12

#### **International Development Week 2011**

There will be events happening all over the province. For more information about SCIC events, please see page 5 of this Earthbeat. Also, remember to get your Global Citizen Awards Gala tickets early! Call (306)757-4669 or email [scic@earthbeat.sk.ca](mailto:scic@earthbeat.sk.ca)

### MARCH 4

#### **International Women's Day 2011 – Celebrating 100 Years**

SCIC along with several other organizations will be hosting a day long event at the University of Regina Institut Francais Theatre. For more information contact SCIC at (306) 757-4669 or [scic@earthbeat.sk.ca](mailto:scic@earthbeat.sk.ca)

### MARCH 10-12

#### **Apathy Into Action Conference University of Regina – REGINA**

RPIRG and SCIC are teaming up to host an amazing 2.5 day event. More information will be coming forth in the coming weeks, but we can tell you that the conference is being kicked off by renowned journalist, broadcaster and international affairs lecturer Gwynne Dyer. Keep your ear to the ground for more exciting announcements about Apathy Into Action.

### THROUGHOUT MARCH Environmental Film Festival(s)

Travelling to 5 different Saskatchewan locations, the 2011 Environmental Film Festival will be somewhere near you! Keep reading the *Earthbeat* for full details in our next issue.

### ONGOING

#### **Kaleidoscope Video Challenge**

Youth 8-18 years are encouraged to make a short film about how they are making a difference locally and globally. Contest details are online at [www.videochallenge.ca](http://www.videochallenge.ca).

Everyone who enters a video before February 1, 2011 will be entered to win a brand new iPod Touch! For questions about the contest in Saskatchewan contact Vicki (306)757-4669 or [communications@earthbeat.sk.ca](mailto:communications@earthbeat.sk.ca)

SCIC along with our members will also be holding a number of other events throughout January and February. Keep reading the SCIC online EZine for more information.

**KALEIDOSCOPE**  
DEFI VIDEO / REAL WORLD VIDEO CHALLENGE

## REAL WORLD VIDEO CHALLENGE!

AN ONLINE CONTEST FOR YOUTH - AGES 10 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)

Canada International Development Agency / Agence canadienne de développement international

Canada