

## 2014 Global Citizen Award Winner



**LORI LATTA** has spent her working life focused on issues of international development, cooperation, social justice, and anti-poverty work. In her early working years, Lori's commitment was already evident, as she worked in both China (1986-1987) (lecturer and assistant editor) and in Ethiopia (1989-1991) as a lecturer and teacher trainer under the WUSC program. This early international experience helped equip Lori for her future at the Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation, where she worked for nearly 20 years, 14 of which were in the Executive Director role.

In this role, Lori always found time to work directly with individuals and small community groups whether they were trying to raise awareness about international development or human justice issues, or to raise funds for a variety of programs for youth, women or families. No group was too big – or more importantly too small – for Lori's enthusiastic spirit. She did not just sit behind her desk, but reached out to the community, including the Daughters of Africa organization, to encourage them to be active in international development work and to connect the local to the global picture.

Lori holds a Master's Degree in Human Justice, and has lectured in the Human Justice program at the University of Regina where she encouraged students to embrace issues of justice in their own lives as well as in the world at large.

### **What are some of the biggest challenges currently facing our global community? What do you see as solutions?**

*Straightening out the global economy is one of the biggest challenges we currently face. We are now seeing the results of decades of neoliberal economic policies that were forced on developing countries to reduce government intervention in the economy and invest in the private sector to fuel economic growth. While the private sector is good at generating wealth, concerns about the distribution of that wealth have now come to a head.*

*The gap between rich and poor (in all countries) is wider than ever before. In developing countries those who have money can be richer than ever, but those who don't have money have no support, and they are doubly affected by the inflation created by the wealthy. Communities have no control over their economy or their food supply. It's a big mess. Personally, I think the solution is for people to get involved in government and for people and government to get involved in the economy -- starting at the local level but eventually the global economy. I think private sector and government both have their roles.*

### **What does global citizenship mean to you?**

*I like to think of citizenship in the context of human rights, so I like to think of global citizenship as a global, classless society where we all have equal rights and responsibilities. Since there isn't a global state or government, we all define our citizenship responsibilities for ourselves. In some ways this is negative, but in some ways it is good -- because it is the ongoing conversation about what our responsibilities are as global citizens that really makes us better.*