



The ACT 4 Global Change 2017 Youth Ambassadors!  
Learn about them and what they have been up to at: [www.act4globalchange.ca/ambassadors](http://www.act4globalchange.ca/ambassadors)

## ACIC CACI

ATLANTIC COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION  
CONSEIL ATLANTIQUE POUR LA COOPÉRATION INTERNATIONALE

### What's Happening

From ACIC

ACIC has had an exciting fall and winter, implementing a number of programs and activities that have engaged our membership and the Atlantic Canadian public.

The last few months have been particularly busy, with our work during International Development Week, wrapping up our internship program, and promoting our ACT4GC Tour.

*Continued on page 4...*

### IN THIS ISSUE

ACIC Executive Director Update	2
Sally Armstrong - Women as Agents of Change	3
Cooper Institute's Rights, Faith and Policy: A Public Forum on Migrant Rights Issues	7
Mennonite Central Committee Maritimes Partners Day	11
Do you know your coffee producer like you know your blueberry producer?	12
From orphaned street kid to university graduate	13
Mount Polley tailings disaster still wreaking havoc over two years later: Why the Sisson mine is a concern for the Nashwaak	14
Members, Board Directors, Staff	16

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## ACIC Executive Director Update

Hello ACIC Members,

As you can see from our What's Happening Section, ACIC staff and volunteers have been extremely busy over the last several months. No doubt you will have had the opportunity to engage with us in some capacity – either through our networking events, through our capacity building workshops, through our numerous events and activities during IDW or perhaps you have engaged with us through social media. We are very active on twitter, Instagram and Facebook, and use these tools strategically to promote our members' activities and work.

Our Board of Directors has also worked very hard over the past months on their mandate. Board Committees, including Governance, Membership, Risk and ad hoc Symposium, Nominations and Engaging Educators committees have developed and implemented workplans to help achieve our strategic goals. These committees also include ACIC member organizations and staff, and collaboratively we have achieved much success. We are currently revamping ACIC's policy manual, developing an institutional risk policy, working on our membership policies and outreach strategies and working to develop our newest ad hoc committee, Engaging Educators, which will help to facilitate our work in schools. The ad hoc symposium committee has been working very hard to develop a theme for the upcoming Symposium, which will take place in Sackville, NB from June 15-17, 2017 (see page 11 for details). Finally, our ad hoc nominations committee is working fervently to identify potential board members to fill the places of several current members that have completed their board terms. Please contact MaryAnne McKinnon at [maryannemckinnon@chalice.ca](mailto:maryannemckinnon@chalice.ca) if you are interested in joining this dynamic group of ACIC members.

On the policy and advocacy front, we have been actively promoting your views and interests during meetings that we have had with Global Affairs Canada (GAC), with the Minister of International Cooperation and her staff, and through our work with the Inter-Council Network (ICN). A key piece of our work over the past year and a half has been to advocate for funding for small and medium sized organizations (SMOs). Through the ICN, we have submitted a proposal to GAC that

would enable us to administer a program specifically for SMOs that would incorporate many of the recommendations we have made over the past several years to simplify the call for proposals process. While it doesn't appear that the proposal will be funded, it certainly has served to push GAC in recognizing the need for a funding mechanism that will support access to funding for SMOs. Our last meeting with Minister Bibeau enabled the ICN to promote the work of our members and to reiterate the need for funding to be made available to SMOs, and that the need is urgent! We also discussed the outcomes of the International Assistance Review, and are confident that our work to compile and collate the thoughts of our members will serve to influence the outcomes of that process. Although there is sadly no new money for the sector in this year's budget, we are hopeful that the existing envelop will be allocated in a way that enables organizations and institutions from the Atlantic to access badly needed funds.

Finally, as some of you will know, we have been working extremely hard over the past several months to prepare funding proposals for both the International Youth Internship Program and the International Aboriginal Youth Internship Initiative, both funded through Global Affairs. The IYIP proposal is an ambitious and exciting program that we have proposed – 15 countries, 7 ACIC members, and 22 Southern partners over four years. We have created a proposal that leverages the strengths of ACIC members and their partners to offer quality internship opportunities to a total of 120 youth interns in 6 cohorts by program end. The IAYI proposal is a collaboration between ACIC, the Northern Council for Global Cooperation (NCGC), several Indigenous organizations from Atlantic Canada and the Territories, and the provincial and regional councils. Together we have proposed a strong program working in 6 countries, with 5 southern partners. The program also serves to engage communities, elders and Indigenous youth from across Canada to support efforts in international cooperation activities. This proposal will potentially support 20 Indigenous youth intern positions each year over five years.

## Sally Armstrong – Women as Agents of Change

Written by Matt Jalink



Sally Armstrong, Photo: Global Health Office, Dalhousie University

Violence against women was this year’s focus for international development week, and is highlighted in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (#5). In response to this theme, human rights activist, journalist, and award winning author Sally Armstrong came to Dalhousie University to talk about women as agents of change. Sally drew upon her vast experience of covering stories about women and girls in conflict zones from across the globe. The three-time Amnesty International award winner gave insightful and inspiring examples of women empowering themselves to defy societal and gender norms creating change and opportunity for themselves.

Sally shared the story of young women in Kenya who filed a law suit against their government for failing to protect them from sexual assault. Despite facing strong opposition, the young women won and catalyzed change for women and girls all across their country. In order to translate this courtroom victory into practice, the Nairobi police have mandatory training on sexual assault. For three years, the Vancouver police department worked with the Nairobi police to develop the training program and successfully trained the team in Kenya. By speaking out and standing up for themselves, these young Kenyan women have provided themselves and future generations protection from sexual assault and gender violence.

Sally’s message was filled with optimism, inspiration, and hope. Great strides are being made in eliminating violence against women and we need to continue to work towards building a safer, equitable future.



Dr. David Anderson, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University and Shawna O’Hearn, Director, Global Health Office at Dalhousie University, with Sally Armstrong.

**Feeling Canadian?**

Submit your video to the  
**#HeresMyCanada** contest.  
 Great prizes to be won!



**Fier d’être Canadien?**

Participe au concours  
 vidéo **#VoiciMonCanada**  
 Cours la chance de gagner des prix!

## What's Happening...con't

### Fond Farewell

After more than four years with ACIC, Stephanie McAnany is leaving to accept a position with Intergovernmental Affairs with the NB Government. Stephanie has contributed in many wonderful ways to our work in her various roles as Membership Coordinator, Program Officer for youth programs, and most recently, as IYIP (International Youth Internship Program) Coordinator.

During her time with ACIC, Stephanie worked with members to build capacity and provide networking opportunities, organized youth conferences, worked with volunteers, led two international solidarity tours with youth, supported our provincial coordinators, represented ACIC at the UN Summit on the Sustainable Development Goals, and successfully supported 20 interns in international placements as IYIP Coordinator.

We will be sorry to lose Stephanie, but we wish her all the best in her on-going career endeavours outside of ACIC. Stephanie, may the force be with you!

### ACT 4 Global Change Challenge

In celebration of International Development Week, the ACT 4 Global Change Challenge is a competition for elementary schools from across the Atlantic region. Teachers and students are challenged to complete the most ACTivities for global change from February 1 to February 28. The school who completes the most ACTivities during this time will win a cash prize of \$500 to put towards a TAKE ACTION project of their choice.



The ACT 4 Global Change Challenge is a way to encourage students to be ACTIVE global citizens AND a way for teachers to complement curriculum with activities to help meet learning outcomes.

The 2017 ACT 4 Global Change Challenge wrapped up on March 1, 2017. This year we had 5 schools participating, representing New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador and Prince Edward Island (due to the Work-to-Rule strike in Nova Scotia, schools from this province could not participate). 65 ACTivities were submitted, almost 2000 students participated and it was wonderful to see the excitement and creativity among students and teachers alike. It was a close call but one school was awarded the \$500 Challenge prize to put towards a TAKE ACTION project of their choice - Sussex Elementary in New Brunswick! Congratulations to all who participated - the future looks bright with these ACTIVE global citizens! See more at:

<http://www.act4globalchange.ca/challenge/about>

### International Development Week

International Development Week (IDW) aims to encourage Canadian women and men—especially youth—to learn more about and contribute actively to international development. IDW also highlights what Canada and Canadians are doing to make a better world. For many Canadians, this will be an opportunity to talk about what they have done to help reduce poverty in the world.



This year, ACIC hosted a catered lunch and panel discussion featuring Sally Armstrong (Human rights activist, journalist and award-winning author covering stories about women

and girls in zones of conflict all over the world. Sally is also a three-time Amnesty International award winner, and past member of the International Women’s Commission at the UN and Masuma Asad Khan (IDS student at Dalhousie University, Campaigns and Outreach Coordinator for the Equity and Accessibility Office for the Dalhousie Student Union and Dalhousie Muslim Student Association’s president). “A new age is dawning for every mother’s daughter”, was hosted at Delta Halifax and was livestreamed to Memorial University, NL for students and faculty. It was also recorded and viewed on NB Community College campuses throughout NB. Not to be outdone by past winter weather events, PEI wasn’t able to show the panel discussion due to the omnipresent IDW winter storm. See the panel discussion here: [www.acic-caci.org/our-work/idw-panel-discussion.html](http://www.acic-caci.org/our-work/idw-panel-discussion.html)

PEI did host other events of its own with NGO displays at Charlottetown’s Timothy’s Café all month. The Island also hosted a film screening at University PEI with Cinema Politica



PEI musical performers at IWD events

“The Real Thing: coca, democracy and rebellion in Bolivia” was shown in support of Fallon Mawhinney’s July 2017 trip to Bolivia, with Uniterria and WUSC. The Real Thing explores the US’s declared “war on drugs” and how it has affected the people of Bolivia.

ACIC youth representatives and members in PEI also presented their work at Timothy’s Café at an afternoon event featuring music, snacks and conversation.

Sally Armstrong also spoke at Dalhousie University as part of the Global Health Office Speakers Series. Global health and the Sustainable Development Goals Gender Equality (SDG # 5) See more from the Global Health Office on page 3. A big thank you to our co-sponsors WUSC, the Global Health Office, and the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women.



### International Women’s Day

ACIC partnered with Mutcho Cultural Group to celebrate women around the world with a multi-cultural celebration! A

Continued on page 6...



Some of the performers from the International Women’s Day celebration, with Janvier (in the middle) who leads the Mutcho Cultural Group

## What's Happening...con't

fundraiser for clean water for women, participants enjoyed musical performances and dancers from a variety of cultures, and learned about the Gazelle Foundation that is supporting clean water projects in Burundi. We were excited to welcome many special guests, including Geoff Regan (MP), Mike Savage (Mayor of Halifax), and Joanne Bernard (Minister responsible for the Advisory Council on the Status of Women Act).

### ACT 4 Global Change Tour

ACIC is pleased to announce our partnership with Mennonite Central Committee Maritimes for the ACT 4 Global Change Tour to Uganda in July 2017. This year we are also

Atlantic Council for International Cooperation & Mennonite Central Committee

# ACT 4 Global Change

## ★ UGANDA TOUR ★

4 Atlantic Youth  
Adventure of a lifetime  
July 2017

Nominate a youth (Grade 9-11)  
[www.act4globalchange.ca/tour](http://www.act4globalchange.ca/tour)



Global Affairs  
Canada



Mennonite  
Central  
Committee

Affaires mondiales  
Canada

collaborating with the Alberta Council, who will send an additional four youth on the tour to Uganda. The ACT 4 Global Change Tour invites four Atlantic Canadian youth to travel overseas to get a first-hand experience of an international cooperation project with an Atlantic Canadian partner organization. After the Tour, participating youth share the story of their journey in their home communities through presentations to local schools and groups. Find out more and follow the adventure here: [www.act4globalchange.ca/tour](http://www.act4globalchange.ca/tour).

### ACT 4 Global Change Ambassadors

*"[The training] was an awesome experience to further my understanding in global issues and what being a global citizen means. Also, meeting others that are passionate about the world and its problems was also an exciting experience."*

*"I am most looking forward to meet with different organisations and people and teach them about different global issues and also take on workshops."*

- current Youth Ambassadors

We're excited to announce the ACT 4 Global Change Ambassadors for 2016-2017. Hajar Abdessamie (NB), Léo Han (PE), Chantal Peng (NS) and Noha Shehata (NL) are the talented young people who came together in Halifax for training in early December, and have already reached over 250 students through classroom presentations since that time!

These four Atlantic Canadian youth (one from each province) were selected as ACT 4 Global Change Ambassadors. As a team, they come together to build leadership and facilitation skills, learn about global issues, and to build connections with each other.

Continued on page 8...



# Rights, Faith, and Policy: A Public Forum on Migrant Worker Issues

**RIGHTS, FAITH, AND POLICY:  
A PUBLIC FORUM ON  
MIGRANT  
WORKER  
ISSUES**

**Monday, March 27, 2017**  
9:30am - 4:00pm  
PEI Farm Centre  
420 University Avenue  
Charlottetown

Be part of the growing movement in Canada for migrant workers rights by building protections and supports through community, workers' solidarity, and provincial policies.

For more information or to register:  
visit [www.cooperinsitute.ca](http://www.cooperinsitute.ca)  
or call 902-894-4573



**Cooper Institute** is excited to invite you to participate in an important event for the support of Migrant Workers in PEI and the Maritimes.

**Rights, Faith, and Policy: A Public Forum on Migrant Worker Issues** will bring together migrant workers, community organizations, faith groups, and provincial representatives to build capacity for action, policy, and solidarity on migrant worker rights.

The forum will begin with a panel featuring speakers addressing each of the 4 themes of the event. Following the large group discussion, participants choose to participate in one of 4 concurrent streams. These streams address the 4 themes of the event:

- Provincial Policies: the role of Provincial policies for migrant worker rights
- Communities of Faith: Social Justice outreach with Migrant Workers – Hosted by KAIROS Canada
- Community Solidarity: the role of organizations and individuals.

The day will conclude with a presentation of the strategies and next steps determined by each group.

Registration is required; this event is free to attend, and lunch and snacks will be provided. Transportation support is available for migrant workers who wish to attend. Funds for child and elder care are also available upon request.

To register visit our [EventBrite page](#), or contact Cooper Institute by emailing [josie@cooperinstitute.ca](mailto:josie@cooperinstitute.ca) or calling (902) 894-4573.

## What's Happening...con't

Throughout the year, each Ambassador volunteers in their own community, delivering global citizenship workshops for children and youth, working alongside local international cooperation practitioners, and taking ACTION on the global issues that matter to them the most!

At the end of March, the four youth ambassadors are coming together in Halifax to participate in training activities, including participation in the Prime Minister's Youth Council Conference. They have also planned an event in Halifax on 25 March to celebrate Earth Day. The event will include guest speakers that will talk about climate change.

See the group photo of the Ambassadors on the cover and meet them here in this video: [www.act4globalchange.ca/ambassadors/about](http://www.act4globalchange.ca/ambassadors/about)

### Capacity Building and Training Activities

ACIC was pleased to partner with Partnership Broker Association (PBA) to provide a one-day workshop on Ethical Partnership in St. John's, NL. The day long training helped increase understanding of the conditions necessary for enhanced and sustained collaboration among industry, government, non-profits and academia. It was well attended by 14 people who learned what it takes to partner effectively.

*"[I will use...t]he skills to broker new relationships/ partnerships. Looking at creative ways to work with different sectors, not just government...[in my work]" (participant's comment "What did you learn from this workshop that you will use in your work?")*

### Networking

While Jennifer Slood and Janelle Frail were in St. John's to host and participate in the workshop, ACIC also hosted a St. John's Development Drinks networking event with a few others at The Vinyl Room. Snacks were enjoyed and records were spun at this cozy spot!

### International Youth Internship Program

ACIC is in the midst of completing its last cohort of internship with 20 interns partnering with five member organizations in nine countries. Interns have completed their overseas placement and are now in Canada to continue their work with member organizations. ACIC hosted a re-integration and debriefing from March 5-8th at Bayside Camp and interns are currently conducting public engagement activities. An event at Saint Mary's University brought together students with interns to hear about their experiences and acquiring skills to gain entry level jobs in international development.



ACIC interns 2017



## High Level Meeting 2

From November 28 to December 1, 2016 ACIC's Jennifer Sloot had the privilege of participating in the HLM2 (High Level Meeting) in Nairobi, Kenya, as a part of the North American Civil Society delegation. ACIC Board Member, Brian Tomlinson, of Aid Watch Canada was also a part of the delegation.

One of the highlights for Jennifer was participating in the CSO Forum, November 29, 2016. This was an opportunity to learn from many CSO (civil society organisation) leaders from around the world, on their challenges related to Development Effectiveness and the "Enabling Environment" (or more accurately, the closing space for CSOs, around the world).

The key purpose of the meeting for those involved in negotiations on the Nairobi Outcome document, was to ensure that all of the previous achievements and gains made by CSOs in previous meetings in Busan, Mexico and elsewhere, such as the recognition of CSOs as development actors in our own right, continue to be recognized.



Board member Brian Tomlinson and ACIC Executive Director Jennifer Sloot.

Although the majority of us on the delegation were not directly engaged in these negotiations once the HLM2 started, those in the inner leadership group told us that the outcomes were positive, and the **Nairobi Outcome Document and Civil Society Statement** were considered to be very strong.

It was a very interesting learning experience, and good opportunity to represent ACIC within the North American delegation, and with the official Canadian delegates, including the Canadian Ambassador to Kenya (and the region), and the Global Affairs Canada representatives.

As follow up to the HLM2, there was a meeting in January between those participating in the Canadian Civil Society delegation and GAC (Global Affairs Canada). The meeting provided an opportunity for Julia Sanchez (head of the Canadian delegation and recently elected co-chair of the CSO Partnership on Development Effectiveness -CPDE) to continue to push the key messages in the **Nairobi Outcome Document and Civil Society Statement**.

As well, CCIC shared an excellent analytical summary of the HLM2, co-prepared by Brian Tomlinson and linked [HERE](#). The paper focuses on what was accomplished in Nairobi as well as emerging challenges for the Global Partnership and development effectiveness efforts, and presents some ideas for moving forward.

## Inter-Council Network

On February 14, 2017, the Inter-Council Network of Provincial and Regional Councils (ICN) had a fruitful exchange with Minister Bibeau, Parliamentary Secretary Caesar-Chavannes, Assistant Deputy Minister Golberg, and several senior staff at Global Affairs Canada at which we learned more of what's to come. Moving forward, there will be a strengthened focus on human dignity, women's empowerment, building local capacities, and innovation. In our discussions we continue to share ideas, suggestions, and some issues of concern for our collective memberships, particularly regarding opportunities for engagement of small and medium-sized organizations across Canada.

The ICN had another full day meeting with Global Affairs Canada - SDG Task Force, IAR (International Assistance

Review) Policy Branch, Engaging Canadians Bureau staff, and with Elissa Golberg, Assistant Deputy Minister, Partnerships for Development Innovation branch.

ACIC also had the opportunity to attend an event in Ottawa on International Women's Day, where the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of International Development and La Francophonie—along with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau—announced an investment of \$650 million over three years in funding for sexual and reproductive health and rights.

### Hive Mind online course

*Hive Mind: Engaging the Public for the Greater Good* is designed as an introductory course for practitioners who would like to explore the key concepts of public engagement, boost their ability to connect with stakeholders in their communities and learn how to build effective partnerships. The course will provide practical tools for animating the community and connecting with your target audience, with a special focus on reaching students and youth.

This course on public engagement has much to offer as an overview for folks who are new to the sector and those looking to reconnect with the concepts that underpin their work, as well as students passionate about social change and teachers trying to inspire their students to become global

citizens. Everything is designed in layers, so there is plenty to delve into if you want to learn more!

Hive Mind: Engaging the Public for the Greater Good is a flexible, go at your own pace, online program that takes roughly 20 hours to complete. A certificate is offered upon course completion.

A project of the Inter-Council Network, this online course launched in mid-January with 310 participants registered from across Canada. Participants can register now for the third cohort starting mid- April. Sign up here: <http://bit.ly/2fcZZZZ>

### ACIC Symposium

ACIC's annual Symposium and Annual General Meeting will take place in Sackville, NB from June 15-17th, 2017. *"Common Concern: Standing Together as Global Citizens"*, will bring together different constituencies beyond ACIC's immediate membership – from organizations representing environmentalists, indigenous peoples, women's rights, youth and students, among others. We want to challenge not only our members, but all organized constituencies in Atlantic Canada, to renew efforts to work together to engage Atlantic Canadians in a shared commitment to internationalism, social justice for all, and environmental sustainability.

ONLINE COURSE OFFERED BY THE ICN ON PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

THIRD COHORT STARTS APRIL 2017

**SIGN UP NOW!**

**HIVE MIND:  
ENGAGING THE PUBLIC  
FOR THE GREATER GOOD**



ACIC has also launched a call for proposals for our members for our Southern Speakers Symposium Fund. This fund will support the travel of one individual to travel from the global south to attend our symposium to speak. We'll be announcing the recipient of this fund in early April.



## MCC Maritimes Partners Day

**Mennonite Central Committee Maritimes Office invites you to attend our fourth annual MCC Maritimes Partners Day. MCC provides funding and other support to a number of local organizations across the Maritimes, and has invited them to come meet you who support the work of MCC. The organizations are involved in restorative justice, connecting Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, fair trade, community development and international aid. Come for supper or drop in to share stories, build connections and learn more about the people you support who are doing so much to promote healthy communities and build peace in our region. Partners will give brief presentations during supper, between 5:00 and 6:00 pm.**

**April 28, 2017 | 5:00 pm–7:00 pm | Northbrook Community Centre  
2 Chapman Street, Dartmouth, NS | Supper will be provided  
Contact Christina at 506-383-9339 or [christinadunfield@mcccanada.ca](mailto:christinadunfield@mcccanada.ca)**

## Do you know your coffee producer like you know your blueberry producer?

From Suzanne L. Johnson, FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE, Dalhousie International Office | Agricultural Campus

Truro Foody Friday, held February 24th, asked guests to consider the social, environmental, and economic impacts both locally and globally of a cup of coffee. At this coffeehouse event, guests enjoyed creative performances interspersed with guest speakers, upcycling workshops, and locally prepared refreshments. The Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture International Office took the lead in organizing the event, supported by the Living Earth Council, and drawing upon collaborations with local community members, organizations, businesses, and social enterprises.

Ms. Linxi Yang, an alumnus of Dalhousie's Master of Science in Bioresource and Environmental Science program, provided an overview of her research on bio-crude fuels created from spent K-Cups. The presentation and question and answer period that followed engaged the audience in a consideration of the environmental impacts of K-Cups, and the potential for transforming waste products into creative solutions for energy needs. Mr. Sergio Garrido, proprietor of Aroma Maya Coffee, spoke about the Aroma Maya journey as a new coffee brand. His talk described establishing links with coffee producers, and navigating the processes of purchasing, roasting, packaging, and selling coffee in a socially and environmentally responsible manner.



Mr. Sergio Garrido, proprietor of Aroma Maya Coffee, speaking at Truro's Foody Friday

Between speakers, guests enjoyed creative performances, with talent drawn from the local and campus communities. Music was provided by Tracy Kittilsen (fiddle), Julie Johnstone (guitar), Ashelin Johnstone (piano, vocals), Carol Roode (vocals, guitar, piano) Emily Kittilsen (fiddle), and Shawn Pryor



Music was provided by Tracy Kittilsen (fiddle), Julie Johnstone (guitar), Ashelin Johnstone (piano, vocals), Carol Roode (vocals, guitar, piano) Emily Kittilsen (fiddle), and Shawn Pryor (guitar, vocals - not pictured)

(guitar, vocals), while Rakesh Menapati shared some of his originally composed poetry. Refreshments, including Aroma Maya coffee, were enjoyed, supporting small-scale local enterprises such as Laura Elizabeth's Gluten Free Bakery, and the CEP Café which is an extension of the local high school's workplace experience program.

Guests were challenged to think critically and creatively over the evening to consider the impacts of their coffee consumer choices, and think about ways to re-use and repurpose coffee by-products. Stations to transform spent K-Cups into seed starters, coffee grounds into a coffee-sugar body scrub, and deodorizers were available to get the creative thought process percolating.

Funding support for the event was provided by the Atlantic Council for International Cooperation's Member Public Engagement fund, through funding provided by Global Affairs Canada.



Sweet treats at Foody Friday in Truro

## From orphaned street kid to university graduate.

From Heather Little, Communications Specialist, Chalice Canada

“What I really needed was love,” explains Humberto Lopez. “We never had a father or a mother, so we never knew what love felt like.”

One of Chalice’s recent graduates from the Hope for my Future scholarship program, Humberto isn’t letting the horrors of his past define his future.

Sometimes he gets lost in the memories of his childhood, his life with an alcoholic mother and a father he never met. He remembers the death of his baby sister after being dropped by their intoxicated mother. After his mother passed away, he and his younger brother were sent to live with an uncle where they were the victims of violence. At the age of seven and five they escaped to the streets where they lived a life filled with drugs, alcohol and crime.

Mercifully one day a police officer caught him stealing and sent him to live at Amanecer, a Chalice Sponsor Site, dedicated to supporting children, adolescents, women and babies, who have been mistreated, abandoned, and live on the streets.

He ran away several times. Mistrustful and hardened by his upbringing, it was hard to accept that people genuinely wanted to help him and his brother.



Humberto Lopez, recent graduates from the Hope for my Future scholarship program.

During a local television interview in 2015 they asked how old he was and he said he was somewhere between 21 and 23 years old. When he was younger he felt his birthday was April 12th because it was the one day he remembered the most. Until a few years ago he didn’t know how old he was or where he was born. He was very young when he escaped from his uncle and didn’t have any identification papers.

One day a representative of the Santa Cruz Mecantil Bank came to Amanecer to administer the entry exam for a scholarship program they were offering as part of a partnership with the Catholic University of La Paz and Chalice. To his surprise, Humberto passed, “When I passed the exam and was given the chance to enter school, it was the first time I felt important.”

Unfortunately six months into the program, Humberto was removed due to behavioural issues. Because of his past, he found it very hard to integrate with the other students. Recognizing the potential within him, Chalice staff at Amanecer provided Humberto with counselling sessions, allowing him to work through his problems and enabling him to return to the scholarship program the following year. Chalice continued to provide weekly counselling in La Paz to help with his return to school.

We are so proud of Humberto. In December 2016 he graduated from the Management and Entrepreneurship program at the Catholic University of La Paz, achieving a 92% on his final project.

Sponsorship, combined with donations to the Hope for my Future program saved Humberto’s life. He has overcome neglect and homelessness and now has a solid foundation on which to build a successful future.

“Thank you,” says Humberto. “There is no way to repay all what people have done for me.”

To date Chalice has 25 graduates from the Hope for My Future program. After a successful first phase Chalice has agreed to help more students prosper through Hope for my Future (II), to help someone like Humberto please call 1-800-776-6855.

## Mount Polley tailings disaster still wreaking havoc over two years later: Why the Sisson mine is a concern for the Nashwaak

By Tracy Glynn, Conservation Council of New Brunswick

One of the world's largest tailing dams is proposed to be constructed in the upper Nashwaak River Valley as part of the proposed Sisson mine operation. With catastrophic mine waste spills on the rise and a failure of the Sisson mine's permitting process to examine the possibility of a tailings breach, there is reason to worry about the future of the Nashwaak Watershed.

Jacinda Mack says that the lives and landscape of the Secwepemc territory in the heart of British Columbia forever changed on August 4, 2014, the day the Mount Polley tailings dam breached. Mack was the Natural Resources Manager for the Xat'sull First Nation when 25 million cubic metres (10,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools) of contaminated process water and tailings poured into Polley Lake, Quesnel Lake, and eventually, the Fraser River Basin.

Before the Mount Polley disaster, Xat'sull families harvested and processed up to 200 salmon per family. The Quesnel Lake watershed supported a lucrative sport and commercial fisheries and tourism industry while also being home to resource extraction in the form of mining and logging.

For the losses suffered by the worst mine waste spill in North America's history, the Xat'sull First Nation at one point received tins of salmon to compensate for the loss of wild

salmon contaminated by the spill. The company that operates the Mount Polley mine and tailings dam, Imperial Metals, was never fined by the B.C. government.

"Tons of toxic substances were dumped into waterways. Fish habitats were destroyed. People's drinking water was affected. Yet, nearly three years after the disaster, and despite clear evidence of violations of Canadian laws, no charges have been brought forward by any level of government. This is wrong, simply wrong. It sets a terrible precedent for other mines across the country, let alone internationally," said Ugo Lapointe, Canada Program Coordinator for MiningWatch Canada. The organization is taking the B.C. government and Mount Polley Mining Corporation to court for violations of the Fisheries Act in relation to the Mount Polley disaster.

B.C. made some amendments to its mining code in July 2015 in response to recommendations made by an inquiry into the Mount Polley disaster but Mack, now the coordinator of the First Nations Women Advocating Responsible Mining, argues that the changes are not strong enough to prevent another Mount Polley disaster.

David Chambers, a mining technical specialist with the U.S.-based Center for Science in Public Participation, maintains tailings disasters are on the rise and advocates against the



construction of new tailing dams. According to the report, “The Risk, Public Liability, and Economics of Tailings Storage Facility Failures,” co-authored by Chambers, half of serious tailings dam failures in the last 70 years, 33 of 67, occurred between 1990 and 2009. Eleven catastrophic failures are predicted globally from 2010 to 2019. The average cost of these catastrophic tailings dam failures is \$543 million, according to Chambers’ report.

While the industry says that they are working on best practices for tailings dams, catastrophic mine waste spills are increasing in frequency, severity and cost because of, and not in spite of, modern mining techniques. The tailings dams are getting larger and are not subjected to proper regulations.

Mining is essentially a waste management industry, says Joan Kuyek, founder of MiningWatch Canada. Kuyek argues that mining has short-term benefits and long-term consequences. What to do with the large amounts of waste generated from the mining of ore has always been a problem and the problem is getting worse with the mining of low grade ores that generate even more waste and require even larger dams or storage facilities. The increasing rate of tailings dam failures is directly related to the increasing number of larger tailings dams.

Mining companies dump tailings, the waste left over after ore has been mined and processed, into dams for permanent storage because it is cheaper than other methods that are considered less risky to the environment such as the dry-stack tailings method.

Knowing all we know about the risks associated with today’s tailings dams, one has to wonder whether we will be telling stories of the day the Sisson tailings dam breached and devastated the Nashwaak River?

Lawrence Wuest, a resident of Stanley, has worked diligently to reveal the impacts of what could be one the world’s largest

open-pit tungsten and molybdenum mines. The Sisson mine, owned by Northcliff Resources and Todd Minerals, is located about 30 km from Stanley and 60 km northwest from Fredericton. The operation would have a footprint of approximately 1,250 ha, a 145 ha open-pit that is 370 m deep and a tailings dam estimated to be 87 m in height at its deepest point and 8 km in length. In comparison, the Mactaquac dam is about 40 to 50 m in height and 0.5 km long.

According to Wuest, if a tailings breach were to occur at the Sisson mine, the volume could be four times more than that spilled at the Mount Polley site. If the tailings dam did fail, according to Wuest, the tailings would travel down the Nashwaak River and reach Stanley in 17 minutes and Fredericton in three days.

The Conservation Council brought together experts to examine and comment on the mine’s environmental assessment reports. Based on the experts’ assessment of the project and environmental assessment, the Conservation Council argues that the Sisson mine should not be approved. Important questions about the mine’s impact on the natural environment remain unanswered. Shockingly, the Environmental Impact Assessment for the mine ignored calls for an assessment of a possible tailings breach into the Nashwaak River.

When Canada’s Ministers responsible for mining from provinces and territories across Canada meet in St. Andrew’s, New Brunswick this summer, it will be a time for them to stand up and ensure us that our watersheds are protected from being forever devastated by a mine’s waste.

*This story will appear in the Spring 2017 Edition of EcoAlert, the Conservation Council’s magazine.*

*Tracy Glynn is with the Conservation Council of New Brunswick*

# Rendez-vous

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