

The Coady Connection

St. Francis Xavier University • Antigonish, Nova Scotia • Canada

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50 years of Igniting Leadership

A Coady education strengthens leaders and their organizations in order to build stronger communities and societies. The Coady Institute and its graduates and partners are building a better world.

Today's Coady Institute: more than 5,000 graduates and partners improving people's lives in 130 countries worldwide, helping people everywhere become masters of their own destiny.



Celebrating 50 years of Igniting Leadership

*By Mary Coyle
Director, Coady International Institute
Vice President, St. Francis Xavier University*

We've enjoyed a remarkable 50th anniversary year of celebrating and of being celebrated. At the heart of it all is the incredible contributions that you, our graduates, partners, supporters and staff - "Coady's people" - have made, and continue to make, toward building a better world.

We've been using every opportunity afforded by our golden anniversary to highlight our collective accomplishments through: alumni gatherings; the grand opening of our new facilities; youth forums; the launch of a new digital archive aimed at preserving and making our history accessible online to all around the world; an international forum looking at Asset-based, Citizen-led Development; a study tour of India and Nepal aimed at heightening awareness of our graduates' and partners' work; and the publication of a new commemorative Coady Institute book.

We are honouring our legacy by expanding our education programming, publications and action partnerships. We are developing programs and projects specifically designed to meet pressing educational needs, increasing access to our programs through scholarships, and expanding practical research initiatives to support our global partners' efforts. We are developing a woman's leadership initiative, expanding youth programs to help more Canadian youth experience the world first hand, and planning programs to support the development of leaders among Canada's Aboriginal communities. As always, with Coady, success in any of these areas is made transferable through broadly sharing effective practices.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *The Coady Connection*. We encourage you to continue to send us your news and insights so that we can share them through the Coady network with your fellow alumni. Let's stay connected so all may be strengthened. Together, let us continue to build a better world.

We're in! A look at our new building

It was a day long in the making when the Institute moved into its new home on June 12th, 2009, just in time to welcome the 50th anniversary Diploma in Development Leadership class on June 29, followed quickly by 100 delegates from 15 countries at a Forum on Asset-based, Citizen-led Development, July 7-10. Some highlights of the new Centre include:

- A doubling of the square footage of the Institute to 55,000 square feet (43,000 renovated and 12,000 new construction)
- Multifunction halls able to accommodate 100+ individuals, five other classrooms, and eight collaborative learning rooms
- An expanded Marie Michael Library and digital archive, which will make the Library's many information resources easily accessible for all students and community members
- An inspirational garden, encompassing an area of 30,000 square feet, providing an attractive public space and featuring a bronze monument of Moses Coady
- Interpretation throughout the facilities which will celebrate the leaders, supporters, and partners who believe in the Coady Institute's vision of building a better world for all
- Shared facilities with a revitalized StFX Extension Department.

"With the new facilities comes increased responsibility to continue to build our capacity to serve more development leaders from around the world, and that's been the motivation behind the building all along," says Mary Coyle. "Now with the facilities in place, we can focus on expanding opportunities to foster world-class education, innovation, leadership and community development."



2010 Spring Semester at the Coady International Institute: APPLY TODAY

Community Development Leadership by Women May 3 - 21, 2010

Community-Based Microfinance May 3 - 21, 2010

Advocacy & Citizen Engagement May 31 - June 18, 2010

Livelihoods and Markets May 31 - June 18, 2010

The Coady Institute has been offering professional community development training for over 50 years. Some of our most popular offerings are 3 week practical, focused certificate programs.

These programs are offered by experienced Coady staff with decades of experience in the global south. They use adult education methods to share their own wealth of knowledge and skills, and facilitate the reflection and sharing of knowledge and experiences between participants. Coady staff are joined by associates who are known for their own expertise and practical work in the field. Participants are drawn from experienced CBOS, NGOS, social justice groups and government departments from around the world.

In the spring of 2010 we will be offering four of these certificate programs in different combinations. We are thrilled to have well known leaders from around the world as facilitators for these courses. People like Emily Sikazwe, Executive Director of Women for Change in Zambia and Malcolm Harper from the UK.

You could take one certificate over three weeks or combine two certificates over seven weeks to deepen your knowledge and skills in two different areas of practice.

You could take Community Development Leadership by Women followed by Advocacy and Citizen



Engagement or Community Based Microfinance followed by Livelihoods and Markets or any other combination.

Please consider joining us for this exciting new spring semester at the Coady International Institute. Generous scholarships are available for most students from the global south. Application forms can be downloaded from our web site <http://coady.stfx.ca/education/>.

Alumni Profile: Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer

In 1967, at the age of eighteen, Winston Baldwin Spencer arrived from Antigua and Barbuda to attend the Coady International Institute's Diploma in Social Leadership. On September 26th 2009, he returned again as standing Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda to share his memories of his time at the Coady Institute and the impact it has had on his career and personal approach to leadership.

W. Baldwin Spencer has spent over quarter of a century in labour negotiations, serving in the highest positions in the Trade Union Movement and Caribbean politics. Most notable are:

- 1st Vice President of the Antigua and Barbuda Workers Union (ABWU)
- Assistant General Secretary of the Antigua and Barbuda Workers Union
- President of the Caribbean Maritime and Aviation Council
- Leader of the Opposition in the House of Representatives

On the international stage, Prime Minister Spencer served as the Chairperson of the Group of 77 and China at the United Nations in 2008. In May 2008, he also assumed the Chairmanship of The Council for Foreign and Community Relations within CARICOM (COFCOR), and the Chairman of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) from July 2008.

In August 2008, Prime Minister Spencer received the Commander of the National Order of Cote d'Ivoire, which is the highest honour of this African nation, in recognition of his sterling leadership of the Group of 77 and China at the ministerial level. PM Spencer was also made an honorary Hereditary Chief by Cote d'Ivoire in June, and was given the title of Nanan Koussai II. In September 2008, Prime Minister Spencer became the first leader to receive the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Award in recognition of his outstanding leadership and dedicated efforts in achieving the MDGs and advancing the cause of development.

Prime Minister Spencer attended the Grand Opening celebrations of the new Coady Institute facilities and spoke at the 50th Anniversary Gala dinner. During his visit he had a chance to reconnect with Mr. John Chisholm, former Assistant Director of the Coady International Institute, who went to Antigua and Barbuda in the seventies and worked closely with the government in establishing the cooperative registry that is still operating today.

In recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Coady Institute Prime Minister Spencer will be launching the Prime Minister's 'Leadership Development Scholarship' that will be given to a young person engaged in social development work in Antigua and Barbuda, to attend the Coady certificate or diploma course as of the 2010 academic year. This scholarship will be given annually for the next five years and will be facilitated by the Silver Jubilee Scholarship initiative established in the Office of the Prime Minister.

In his speech Prime Minister Spencer noted he was "a proud graduate of the Coady International Institute and a satisfied beneficiary of the knowledge gained in this fine institution of learning" and "... a living example of what a Coady education can do for persons who seek to persevere and live out the principles enshrined in the objectives that guide this institution of learning and knowledge sharing."



Forum connects global experts in practice of ABCD

In July the Coady Institute and the Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) Institute at Northwestern University (Evanston, Illinois) co-hosted a unique forum, which brought together experts in Asset-Based, Citizen-led Development (ABCD) to discuss how to deepen a practice which recognizes the strengths, gifts, talents and resources of individuals and communities, and helps communities to mobilize and build on these for sustainable development.

The Coady Institute was in excellent company: the renowned ABCD Institute, at which U.S. First Lady Michelle Obama is an associate faculty member, is recognized as a world leader in the practice of ABCD. In a June 16th speech, Mrs. Obama recognized the work of the Institute and members of its faculty, John McKnight and (Forum Co-Chair) Jody Kretzmann, for helping to define the principles and practices so critical to building her own vision of healthy communities for the future. She also spoke of her commitment to the ABCD approach to community development: "And as we move forward to implement the Serve America Act, my hope is that the Office of Social Innovation that's going to do some of this funding will help us identify the wonderful concepts out there like Asset-Based Community Development." (To read Mrs. Obama's speech in its entirety,

please visit www.abcdinstitute.org/faculty/obama/).



The ABCD Forum was held as part of the Coady Institute's 50th anniversary celebrations, and brought together 100 delegates from 15 countries, providing opportunities to consolidate and enrich experience with fresh insight and analysis. The Forum was a watershed event, bringing together the global networks of the Coady International Institute and the ABCD Institute to discuss new and innovative ways to change the world one community at a time. Over the course of three days, participants attended seminars, discussions and plenary sessions strengthening the professional, academic, donor and activist networks around the globe.

We were particularly thrilled to welcome home Coady graduates: Steve Brescia, Ammanuel Assefa, Jill Koch, Iva Lafond,

Anselmo B. Mercado, Samuel Molla, Gladys Nabiswa, Brianne Peters, Tran Minh Hai, Imara Rolstan, Adisa Lansah Yakubu, Mengistu Gonsamo, Pauline McIntosh, and Wiliber Ibarra

A variety of experts were on hand to enrich dialogue and provoke debate. Invited for their experience in academic, practitioner, and philanthropic fields, the delegates' work has already been inspirational in their own countries and internationally.

It was quite an event, and we are excited about how well it was received and how it might shape future practice. We had an opportunity to showcase the Institute's work in this area which, along with providing educational programming, capacity building with our partner organizations, and research, also includes the publishing of a book on ABCD, *From Clients to Citizens: Communities Changing the Course of Their Own Development*. The book delves into the success stories of 13 communities in 12 countries around the world — including Canada — which have been recognized for local organizing and citizen engagement. The book explores "asset-based" approaches to building stronger, more resilient communities. (For more information on the Coady Institute's work in ABCD, please visit www.coady.stfx.ca/work/ABCD).



Alumni Insight

Dear Editor,

Although it's already more than 20 years since I left the Coady, the spirit of Coady still lives in my mind and inspires my work in the community. Coady is the first institute I studied in North America. Thank the Lord that CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) provided me with a scholarship so could count myself as a Coady graduate.

My first position after I graduated, was with the Credit Union of Indonesia, in its capital, Jakarta, as organizational development manager covering the whole country. After a number of years in Jakarta I move to East Timor, developing the credit union for the province, mostly in rural areas. That work was sponsored by a German foundation, the Conrad Adenauer (KAS). Through KAS I was sent to Germany to study coop law. After 3 years in East Timor, I took a position with PLAN International in Yogyakarta, Bali and South Sulawesi provinces as a coop consultant. OXFAM in West Timor for participatory training was the next then Catholic Relief Services (CRS) as Small Enterprise Development Manager further with ACDI/VOCA (Agriculture Coop. Dev. Intl.) and then back again with CRS in Aceh for tsunami recovery, with a focus on livelihoods. CRS sent me to Cambodia to study village banking organizations, then to Vietnam for a Social Teaching course, then to the Philippines for

Grameen Replication study.

I would like to say that Coady is a recognized brand at the international organization I work with for the opportunities it provided to deepen my knowledge.

After I finished Aceh (Sumatra) I came back home in a small town Bogor (west Jawa) and work as an Independent consultant for micro finance and cooperative.

Thank you very much to Coady. Happy Anniversary, and God Bless Coady staff.

Sincerely
Nikolas Pranadiningrat
CU CERT HIST, 1979, Indonesia

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"Behind my success in my job is what I learned through the Coady Institute."

Chevuri Ramakrishna
Diploma, 1983

Greetings from Hyderabad, INDIA,

Since 1988, I've been working in the government department of Disabled Welfare, based at Hyderabad. Mainly I look after the manufacturing and distribution of aids/appliances (calipers for those affected by polio and artificial limbs to the amputee patients). I monitor the distribution of the appliances to the disabled throughout the state. I am very



Diploma Class of 65 in traditional dress

happy to serve the disabled. I learned from the Coady Institute how to serve those in need. After rehabilitation of the disabled I am helping them in forming societies to identify others in similar situations who need appliances, and to start self-employment programs in order to help them to stand on their own feet without having to depend upon government/others' help. Most of my beneficiaries are quite happy. Behind my success in my job is what I learned through the Coady Institute.

In my personal life, I am married with two sons. My wife works for the transport department, my elder son works for MICROSOFT as a team leader, and my younger son is studying computer science at the university of Delaware, USA.

Thanks and regards,
Chevuri Ramakrishna
Diploma, 1983

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Dear Coady friends,

Yes, I am proud to be a Coady graduate because I learned so much. Coady is an institute for global capacity building and that is what we all expect to do when we apply for a course. But Coady is more than that, it is an institute where I experienced real friendship, not only among students, but also among students, lecturers and Coady staff. That makes the difference. You are not only a student at Coady but, more importantly, you are a human being, receiving love when you need it the most. Thanks Alison, Olga, Marie-Helene and all others.

I wish us all a happy 50th Anniversary, even if we cannot be in Antigonish, we shall feel the spirit no matter where we are.

With love from Suriname,
Genia Velland-Uiterloo
(ABCD, 2008)

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Dear Editor,

Heartly Congratulations to the Coady International Institute on completing 50 years in 2009.

I am a graduate of Social Leadership Diploma in 1965. Sr. M. Valerie A.C was my companion. After returning from Canada, I worked at Vijaymari Technical Institute, Mangalore, training young girls in secretarial skills, together with an all round development of spiritual, intellectual, social and interpersonal growth. We inculcated dignity of labour and self-help methods in running the hostel for the above students. I have served this Institution for 20 years with breaks in between for other apostolate.

I worked as Provincial Councillor for 12 years, in charge of Social Work and Missionary apostolate for our Karnataka Province, out of which I was also the Provincial Secretary for 9 years.

At present I am at the Provincial House, in charge of Province Library, teaching English to candidates for religious life and spending some time in gardening, continuing God's work of creation, promoting healthy environment.

I pray for all the intentions of Coady Institute. May God grant eternal rest to the departed who worked in the past. May God bless your plans and projects. With prayerful wishes,

Yours faithfully,
 M. Rosetta A.C.
 Diploma, 1965

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Dear Coady friends,

Thank you for keeping me updated with the developments at the Coady Institute. I was overwhelmed to learn that the proposed new Coady International Centre (has brought) the Institute into the heart of the SFX campus in 2009. Heartly congrats!

Having attended a three week long

consultation on "Alternate Systems of Savings & Credit" at the Coady Institute in 1979, I have nostalgic sentiments about the campus & the community.

I have been conducting experiments in livelihoods & markets as an outcome of microenterprises that have backward & forward linkages established and hand-holding and escort services provided by committed voluntary organizations of integrity that have an inclusive approach to food security health assurance,

"Coady opened my mind and my heart for other people, different cultures' and peoples' struggle for life with dignity."
 Fr. Matias Lenz, SJ
 Diploma, 1966

livelihood opportunities & generation of steady income. Many academicians & social scientists, besides environmentalists, have found my endeavors innovative & replicable. If you deem it fit, you may visit our website www.sevashramindia.org and contact me for further details.

The Coady Institute might be able to develop a sustainable model of financial inclusion from what we have done, and project it as a reasonable substitute for the future.

With warm regards,
 Fr. K. Mampilly
 KURIAKOSE AS HIST, 1989

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Hello Coady and all friends from '98,

Thank you for sharing all such information, which takes me back to 1998 and reminds me of so many unforgettable moments. I wish you all the best for 50th Anniversary and hope more and more people will be part of the global capacity building initiatives which have been provided by Coady, long and short term courses and other endeavours over the last 50 years, which have helped all the graduates to serve in the cause of

reducing vulnerability among humanity.

I also want to share with all my friends and teachers that I was really empowered after getting my 'Diploma in Social Development and, as a result, I have achieved a lot in my life so far. Now I am again with the International Federation of Red Cross in Geneva, after working for almost 17 years with Nepal Red Cross. Let's see where my fate will take me in the journey of working for the vulnerable people.

All the best and regards to all to whom I know and who know me,

Mukesh Singh
 Diploma, 1998

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Dear Coady friends,

I am very pleased with the education I received at the Coady. It has helped me, my family and my community. I am attaching a photo of Women's Day march we organized at the Tanzania Gender Networking Project, to advocate on behalf of the women in our community who are effected with HIV -- to be protected at every level -- within the family, the community and the country. These are the real ideas of Moses Coady. His spirit is alive and well in our community.

Sophia Mwakagenda
 Diploma, 2008

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Dear friends in Coady,

I feel happy to be counted with the Coady family at the institute's 50th anniversary this year. In 1979 I attended a seminar on community Development organized by the Diocese of Mangalore in India in collaboration with Coady International Institute. Mr. H.R. (Eric) Amit and Mrs. Audrey were the resource persons from Coady.

I was a young medical graduate then

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Two well-known Coady staff honoured by StFX

At the fall 2008 Convocation, two well-known and long-serving Coady Institute leaders were honoured: Dr. Eric Amit, former director of the Coady and a career humanitarian, received an honorary degree from the university, and Olga Gladkikh, longtime teacher/facilitator and Manager of Educational Programs, was awarded the first Coady International Award of Excellence in Teaching.



Eric Amit, former director of the Coady International Institute

Dr. Amit played a significant role in the development of the Coady International Institute's transformative learning experience. He joined the Coady as a staff member in 1971 and retired as

director in 1996. Throughout his career, he committed himself to building a community in the classroom and the world beyond.

He organized and taught a course of studies in rural development based on the philosophy of the Antigonish Movement. The course remained at the core of the Coady program for more than 25 years. Dr. Amit has also become internationally renowned for his commitment to humanitarian causes and his work with and on behalf of the world's poor and oppressed. In 1995, the United Nations Association recognized his efforts in generating tolerance and understanding and in promoting world peace by naming him a "Global Citizen."

Though officially retired, he continues to work with Coady participants.

Olga Gladkikh's award recognizes her excellence as a teacher, mentor and communicator over her 23-year career with Coady. The award citation, delivered at Convocation by Mary Coyle, states, in part: "It is for her extraordinary teaching talents and her unmatched dedication to the learners that we honour Olga."

"Over the course of her career with the Coady International Institute, Olga Gladkikh has taught in a countless number of countries around the world. In nations as diverse as Nepal, Zambia, the Philippines, India and Barbados,

student evaluations of her teaching have, without exception, described her as a gifted teacher."

"The consummate adult educator, Olga has an exceptional ability to engage students critically in their own learning. She helps them feel safe to articulate their own experiences and knowledge. She is able to influence positive outcomes in challenging cross-cultural learning situations through remarkable skills as a facilitator and – when necessary – as a mediator. Olga has a deep personal commitment to her students and to the causes they are championing in their own countries."



Olga Gladkikh, Manager of Educational Programs

Commemorative Coady book to be published

The Coady Institute is publishing a special edition book that will look at the Coady's first 50 years through the accomplishments of its graduates, its partnerships and the global themes and movements it has influenced. Well-known Canadian writer Noah Richler is researching and writing the book. This will be available for sale in early December 2009 and can be ordered through the StFX University bookstore:

<http://www.stfx.ca/campusstore/Publications>, Phone: 1-888-867-2450 | Fax: (902) 867-5115
 Email: CampusStore@stfx.ca

Coady in 50 – our celebrations in words and pictures

OUR ALUMNI GATHER TO CELEBRATE

Coady graduates around the world have taken the opportunity to gather to celebrate the Institute's 50th anniversary and their own accomplishments.

ZAMBIA

In January, a 50th anniversary reception was held in Zambia, co-hosted by Coady partner organization, Women for Change. Forty-five Coady graduates, friends and partners were in attendance, including a representative from the Canadian High Commission and Coady staff member Olga Gladkikh. Grads were invited from Botswana, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania. The group was proud to host the first of several international 50th anniversary celebrations.



Elizabeth Chintu (Grad 2006) and Women For Change Staff Member in Zambia

Sanyambe Mweemba, a 2006 Coady graduate, wrote: "I thank the Coady for making me what I am today. The lessons and practices made me motivated, and I look forward to the best in life. Empowering local communities, particularly young women, will always be a part of me. I will never forget the experience at the Coady."

SOUTH AFRICA

In February, Canadian High Commissioner Ruth Archibald hosted Coady graduates, staff and friends from South Africa, Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland for a special 50th anniversary celebration at her residence in Pretoria. According to Coady's assistant director, Gordon Cunningham, the opportunity to gather with the Institute's alumni from South Africa was powerful: "It was simply awe-inspiring to see Coady graduates who had come to Coady as community development workers with very few rights under the Apartheid system, now serving their communities as members of parliament or deputy mayors or even as the head of a construction company. Here they were mingling with each other at the home of the Canadian High Commissioner and reminiscing about their time together in Antigonish."



Dr. Lulama Makhubela (CDD Grad 2005), Gord Cunningham and Dr. Dovhavi Mamphiswava (CDD Grad 2004)

GHANA

In May, a celebration was held in Accra, Ghana at the official residence of the Canadian High Commissioner. Guests at the reception included graduates from 1963 up to and including participants for the 2009 summer programs. Alumni also flew in from as far away as Nigeria and Sierra Leone to celebrate. Two Coady staff members — David Fletcher and Colleen Cameron — were also in attendance. Over 380 leaders from Ghana have participated in Coady programs over the years.



50th Anniversary celebrations in Ghana

50th anniversary events are also planned for later this fall in New Delhi, India (November 8) and Nepal (November 10). Contact coadycom@stfx.ca for more information.

Gatherings of Coady Alumni need not be held only to celebrate the anniversary: we encourage all Coady grads to consider organizing events in their home countries, to become reacquainted, to network and to share successes. Be sure to let us know if you plan to organize a gathering in your country.

Alumni Insight

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pushed in to community health, an area of which I knew very little. The seminar helped me to understand health and development in their proper perspective. Later I was given a scholarship for six months diploma in Social Development at CII in 1979. The six months spent at CII were remarkable. The Coady approach to development, and its commitment to ensure the good and abundant life for all through community organization and peoples' empowerment gripped me to be an enthusiastic promoter of social justice and peace, and helped me to make a difference because of the way I approach my work. The love we received at Coady from the staff, students and the people of Antigonish has made a long lasting relationship with Coady.

After my return I continued to work in community health with Coady vision, organized 26 villages, especially womens' groups, and set up a rehab centre for the treatment of Alcoholics and other victims of substance abuse, annexed to the hospital where I worked. The good work done at the rehab centre got recognition for Government grants and to this day we receive grants to run the centre.

After my retirement I served for 3 years in St. John's Medical College Multi-specialty teaching hospital in Bangalore from where I graduated with a Masters Degree in General surgery in 1986. It was an unique opportunity for me to serve my Alma-mater in the Capacity of assistant to Associate Director; again, thanks to the skills in leadership which I gained through Coady.

The crowning event of my career has been saving a 60-bed Mother and Child hospital in the district of Baramulla, Jammu Kashmir. Run by the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary in the World (FMM) sisters, it was on the verge of being closed due to lack of a senior resident doctor. I worked for 2 years from November 2005 to September 2007 in the after math of the

devastating earthquake of 2005. I take great pride of my work in Baramulla in the frontier mission of the church and in a beautiful land called the "Paradise on Earth", unfortunately being destroyed by militancy and the Indo-Pakistan boarder dispute.

Presently I am working in small health center that serves very, very poor tribal villages in Andhra Pradesh. I volunteered to come here because I still have big debt to pay to God, to Coady, to my congregation and to many others whose love and care I've been enjoying. The only way of saying "Thank you" is by serving the poor.

So, thank you Coady. Your old staff live in my memory. To the new staff: God's blessing.

Sr. Dr. Angelina Roche
A Sister of St. Joseph of Tarbes.
Diploma, 1979; FD, 1988

"The crowning event of my career has been saving a 60-bed Mother and Child hospital"

*Sr. Dr. Angelina Roche
A Sister of St. Joseph of Tarbes.
Diploma, 1979; FD, 1988*

Dear Coady friends,

I am currently a Research Associate at the York (University) Centre for Asian Research in Toronto. I am called a Taiwan specialist, and also run research clusters on history of Canadian missionaries in Asia and human rights in China. I recently served as president of the Taiwanese Human Rights Association of Canada.

The most enduring gift I received at the Coady was my introduction to

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the ideas and praxis of Paulo Freire (Pedagogy of the Oppressed, 1970). I used it to great practical benefit in co-op education and aboriginal community organizing in Taiwan (1983-1989), as a basis for many papers and my M.A thesis at York, and as a guide for understanding issues and political struggles in the overseas Taiwanese community and churches I have related to since then.

The second enduring gift was the Coady vision of cooperativism as a process of community education and organizing to empower oppressed people. This helped us keep our focus on the process rather than on an accountant's bottom line as we worked with aboriginal peoples' co-operatives and credit unions in Taiwan. I sigh when I see credit unions here in Canada rebranding themselves as "financial services" and seeking to be happy face banks rather than alternatives to the system.

Sincerely,
Michael Stainton
Diploma, 1983; TC, 1989

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Dear friends of Coady,

Thanks for the Coady Connection (vol. 23, n° 1). As a Coady graduate (1965-66) I am very happy to hear about you and so many former students. Coady opened my mind and my heart for other people, different cultures' and peoples' struggle for life with dignity.

I am now working as the Executive Secretary of the Jesuit Provincials of Latin America and the Caribbean, and as assistant of a Worker Association of our quarter (Círculo de Trabalhadores Cristãos, Centro-Sul, Rio).

Thanks again and best wishes for the Director of CII, Mary Coyle, and for all the students of the beloved Coady Institute, at the 50th anniversary!

Fr. Matias Lenz, SJ
Diploma, 1966

Exceptional day marks new home; 50 years of igniting leadership

“May our foundations support us, may our dedication sustain us, and may our hopes continue to inspire us all to work together for a better world.”

~ Coady director Mary Coyle in a toast opening the new home of the Coady International Institute



World leaders and community members came out in full force – an amazing crowd of over 1,000 people – to toast the Coady International Institute as it celebrated its 50th anniversary and the grand opening of its new \$17 million home in the heart of the StFX campus.

Distinguished guests, in what can only be described as an exceptional day-long celebration, included former Canadian Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Paul Martin; Coady alumni, the Rt. Hon. W. Baldwin Spencer, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, and Ann Meekitjuk Hanson, Commissioner of Nunavut; as well as the Hon. Frank McKenna, chair of the StFX Board of Governors and former Canadian Ambassador to the United States.

In the crowd stood global leaders, Coady graduates, faculty, staff and community members, all who came not only to celebrate the Coady’s rich past, but the potential that now exists from the 4,645 square metres of modern classrooms, offices, and meeting rooms.

Many of those gathered remarked on the community pride permeating the air and the sense of accomplishment with all that has been done over the last 50 years and with the new building.



An open house of the new facilities followed the ribbon cutting. Guests had an opportunity to meet Coady participants and learn about the education programs that make the Coady Institute a unique resource in the world. That evening, over 500 people attended the gala dinner.

The event was marked by powerful and emotional speeches including those by former Prime Minister Martin, Prime Minister Spencer and current Coady participant Inviolata Mwali Mmbwavi who visibly moved people with her speech. A choir of current Coady diploma participants performing an original song entitled Leaders Live On, composed by Coady diploma participant Katrina Collins, with music direction by Dimgonglung Rongmei.



Former Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin addresses the audience at the Gala Dinner



Encompassing four restored historic campus buildings, the new home for the Coady Institute will provide the platform to make a huge step forward for the cause of justice, human dignity, and self-reliance.



Coady and StFX are preserving history online



StFX and the Coady Institute, with funding support from the Canadian government, are preserving important archival materials chronicling the history of the Antigonish Movement and the Coady International Institute.

The project has created a portal to the history of the Movement, which highlights the present-day work and positive outcomes of organizations that followed on its heels, including the StFX Extension Department and the Coady Institute.

Masters Of Their Own Destiny: The Coady Story in Canada and Across the World will preserve the archival materials for future generations, and provide scholars and educators around the world with greater access to historically significant materials that can only serve to deepen insight into the movement and its outcomes.

To visit the archives online, visit <http://coadyextension.stfx.ca>.

The Coady Institute is presented with ACCU Lifetime Achievement Award

The Coady Institute was presented with the ACCU (Asian Confederation of Credit Unions) Lifetime Achievement Award on September 25, 2009. Mr. Anselmo Mercado, (Diploma, 1964) was on hand to receive the award on our behalf.

In his speech, Mr. Mercado stated "...this award speaks eloquently of the great contribution and positive impact on human and community development that the Coady International Institute has shared all over the world during



Anselmo Mercado give his speech to the audience at the ACCU Award Ceremony



Mr. Anselmo Mercado, ACCU President Mr. Oh-man Kwon, Wife of the late Mr. Guillermo Cua, recipient for Individual Category and ACCU CEO Mr. Ranjith Hettiarachchi

the past fifty years, especially in championing the cause of the credit union and cooperative movements in many parts of the world.... On behalf of the Coady International Institute, let me congratulate the ACCU leadership and all its members for all that you have done to make the credit union movement in Asia what it has become today, a great movement."

Alumni Profile: Ann Meekitjuk Hanson

Hon. Ann Meekitjuk Hanson was appointed Commissioner of Nunavut, Canada, in 2005. She graduated from the Coady International Institute in 1975 and returned as Commissioner of Nunavut to participate in our grand opening and 50th anniversary celebrations on September 26, 2009. Her career has been diverse. She has been a civil servant, broadcaster, journalist and author. She was appointed as a member of the Order of Canada in 2003.

In addition to her work in journalism, Comm. Hanson also served with the Government of the Northwest Territories as a community development worker, counsellor and Deputy Commissioner.

Comm. Hanson has spent considerable time as a volunteer, helping to start a number of organizations in Iqaluit. These organizations include the Juvenile Court Committee, the Elders Group, the Inuit Cultural Group and the Quinuajuaq Society.

Comm. Hanson lives in Iqaluit with her husband, Robert Hanson. They have five grown daughters.



Mary Coyle, Hon. Baldwin Spencer, Ann Meekitjuk Hanson and Dr. Sean Riley stand in the Leaders Gallery



Mary Coyle presents Ann Meekitjuk Hanson with a John Berridge photo

Action Partnership: Coady and CIKOD

There is an exciting new partnership emerging between the Coady Institute and the Centre for Indigenous Knowledge and Organizational Development (CIKOD).

CIKOD, a non-governmental organization based in Ghana, seeks to provoke new ways of thinking about how rural communities can strengthen themselves in order to deal with their development challenges. The organization points out that the “new” ways it seeks are not really new, because it focuses on what is already there – indigenous knowledge and resources – and on ways to foster their use as a solid base for development. Bernard Guri is the head of CIKOD. He first came to spend time at the Coady Institute in September 2008. The dual purpose of that first visit was both as a guest presenter on indigenous peace-building mechanisms during the



Bernard Ghuri, Colleen Cameron and David Fletcher

Coady’s certificate program in Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation, and also to become better acquainted with the Coady, to see what possibilities might exist. During his visit, he met with Coady people, and toured several indigenous (Mi’kmaq) communities in Nova Scotia, trying to build an understanding of the indigenous context in Atlantic Canada. Mr. Guri spent time with Coady Senior Program staff person, Colleen Cameron, to learn more about her work with a program called PATH, or People Assessing Their Health. PATH is a process that uses community health impact assessment to build the capacity of people to become active participants in the decisions that affect the well-being of their community. The process is grounded in the principles of adult education and the belief that people know a lot about what makes them and their communities healthy.

“When I heard Colleen present on PATH, I thought this is what we need,” Mr. Guri recalled during a more recent visit to Coady this summer to attend an international forum on Asset-Based, Citizen-led Development (ABCD). “It can really help us to see how peoples’ own knowledge of health and well-being can be used to assess the potential impact of various developmental interventions”.

After their initial meeting, Mr. Guri invited Colleen to Ghana to present PATH to CIKOD field staff and associates, with a view to explore how the process could be implemented among the communities in which CIKOD works. Colleen ran a 3-day workshop in May 2009 to train facilitators who would then go out to communities and share the process that would help them identify their own PATH.

TRAINING THE TRAINERS

While the strength of the PATH process is that it works directly with people in their own community, CIKOD staff developed their own vision of a healthy community (thinking of a generic community in Ghana) in order to learn the process. They developed a Community Health Impact Assessment Tool (CHIAT) -- a creative developmental process that any community can go through to identify its vision of a healthy community, indicators of well-being, and then develops an impact assessment tool based on their own context. The CHIAT was then successfully tested on a government policy that was in the process of being implemented in Ghana, in order to get a sense of how it might affect communities, both positively and negatively.



CIKOD Staff

“The People Assessing Their Health training was very successful, and the staff and associates of CIKOD were proud of the fact that they were able to develop their own community health impact tool,” says Colleen. “When they used the CHIAT to assess the potential impact of a proposal they had developed for an eco-tourism project, they were surprised by the number of issues surrounding the project that they had not previously thought about. Doing the health impact assessment of the proposed project will now enable them to modify the proposal in order to maximize the benefits of the project and minimize the negative effects. They were very impressed with

Continued on next page

the process and said that it will be very useful for them in their work with the communities.” CIKOD works in six regions in Ghana. After their first experience with the process, they are hoping to bring the CHIAT process to as many as 30 communities across the country.

“We plan to use PATH as part of the process of helping our communities to develop their own vision of sustainability and well-being,” says Mr. Guri. “For now, we are processing it, building the capacity of our organization, and then we plan to push out with the process at the community level. The process helps people to value their own resources and knowledge about well-being and figure out how various development interventions might influence the community as a whole.”

“Our relationship with CIKOD is an example of finding synergies and ways to expand the asset-based, citizen led development (ABCD) approach that the Coady has been focusing on as one of the pillars in our approach to development,” says David Fletcher, Coady’s Manager of Education Programs. “A major dimension of the ABCD approach is to explore local knowledges and organizations as assets, and CIKOD and its partners are looking creatively at social networks, cultural beliefs and indigenous structures as

major contributors to community change. “Within Ghana, throughout the African continent, and around the world, there’s an opportunity to do action research and capacity building with CIKOD and their network of global partners to extend the ABCD approach in new and dynamic directions,” he says.



CIKOD’s logo has a very particular meaning. The Bird is a Traditional Symbol called “SANKOFA”, which means Learning from your Roots in Order to Move Forward, while the Surrounding of the Bird Resembles the Step by Step of a Development Process.

David, who has been nurturing a relationship with CIKOD and its partners since 2005, continues: “As we develop our relationship, we can offer innovations like PATH and our certificate and diploma training opportunities, but we can also learn a lot from them. They’re really at the cutting edge internationally on new ways of valuing the world views of indigenous people and grassroots people to ensure that any development interventions match with their beliefs, values and attitudes.”

Mr. Guri concludes: “We hope that, with PATH and our developing relationship with Coady, we can ignite a fire that will spread to the continental level.”

PATH is featured in our special Strategies insert, included with this newsletter.

Alumni Insight

.... continued from Page 9

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Dear Coady friends,

It is a matter of profound joy for me and of immense gratitude to you, that you sent me a letter last fall, enclosing therewith some excellent publications of the Institute, where I studied long ago in 1965. It is really thrilling to know about your progress and of the program to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Institute this year.

I was in Canada in 1965 for about six months, of which about 15 weeks from May to August in the Coady, where I completed the adult education certificate course. We were nearly 70 trainees from about 30 countries, who attended the course. The course was

so interesting and useful that, after I returned home in early Nov/65, whenever I performed my duties in various capacities, especially as principal of a cooperative training institute (1967-69) and subsequently as principal of Bangladesh Cooperative College (1979-82), I recollected with heartfelt thanks that most of my success as a trainer and guide in the cooperative sector in my country was due mostly to the unique education imparted by the Coady. Now eighty years old, I was only 35 when I studied in the Coady in 1965. The other institutions of Canada where I studied in 1965 are the University of Manitoba at Winnipeg, St Dunston University at Charlottetown and the Western Cooperative College at Saskatoon.

I am really proud of being an graduate of the Coady, and I do not know how I should express my delight and gratefulness over your letter remembering me after long 44 years of study in your Institute.

As I write this letter, I clearly see, in my mind’s eyes, a vivid picture of the big university campus in the small town Antigonish, where I enjoyed the best part of my education and service career.

With sincere gratitude once again to you and all others in the Coady International Institute and wishing all success of the Institute’s 50th Anniversary, Ahmed Maniruddin SS CERT HIST, 1965

Coady ignites leadership in Canadian youth

Coady's commitment to providing Canadian youth with opportunities to live and work abroad, thus enabling them to increase their understanding of development issues and to become more actively engaged global citizens, continues to grow and deepen. Since 1997, 156 Canadian youth, recent Canadian university graduates, have been placed as interns with development agencies, serving to increase Coady partners' capacity while allowing young people to gain experience that will improve the interns' employment opportunities when they return to Canada. The youth associates work with Coady partners in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean. To prepare them for their overseas work experience, the interns participate in a four-week orientation program at the Coady Institute, where they get to work side-by-side with Coady participants in the Diploma in Development Leadership program prior to their placement, and when they return, they benefit from extensive re-entry exercises.

During 2008-09, 14 young Canadians participated in Coady internships in Rwanda, Botswana, Ethiopia, Ecuador, Peru and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.



Youth associate Mike Cameron worked in Peru with Coady partner El Centro de Investigación, Educación y Desarrollo (CIED). Mike collaborated closely with the community to support income-generating activities through local women's initiatives and the development and promotion of local tourism. He also shared his love of music with local youth by coordinating and training a group of grade 8 and 9 students on guitar who performed at the annual harvesting festival.

"To work in community development from different contexts is an opportunity that enriches a person's sense and vision of what global development should be. I'm proud to be amongst the many Canadians that have been given that opportunity through the Youth Internship Program (YIP), an experience that is increasingly valuable to a good leader."

Youth associate Claire O'Gormon applied her background in nursing sciences to curriculum development at the Kigali Health Institute (KHI), an Xtending Hope partner in Rwanda. Her experiences in providing support to students and increasing accessibility to resources made as much of an impact on her as it did for those at the Institute.

"The Coady International Institute provided me an experience that facilitated significant personal growth and an invaluable global perspective. Although I was in Rwanda teaching nursing, I learned so much in return. I gained a deeper insight into development issues and furthered my cultural flexibility, both of which will stay with me forever." She goes on to say, "the Coady continues to facilitate international relationships and connections whereby people passionate about development can learn from each other and share their successes. I now know just how important these connections are to global understanding, and I am so grateful I got to be part of such an exciting process."



Xtending Hope partnership

Based at the Coady International Institute, the Xtending Hope Partnership (XHP) is a St. Francis Xavier University (StFX) initiative that is mobilizing the extended university community to assist and support the people, governments and NGOs in Rwanda and Botswana as they deal with the HIV/AIDS pandemic. StFX answered the call made by Stephen Lewis, former United Nations Special Envoy for AIDS in Africa and co-Director of AIDS Free World, for Canadian citizens and institutions to help African countries address the pandemic.

The XHP maintains a focus on strengthening the capacity of people, communities and organizations in order to address the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Over the last year, the XHP has sent 8 volunteers to Xtending Hope partner organizations in communities in both Rwanda and Botswana, contributing to a total of 78 junior and senior professionals sent since 2001.

In October 2008, the Donner Foundation made a \$20,000 donation to support nursing projects in Rwanda. Rwanda's Nursing and Midwifery Task Force is exploring with XHP the continuation of educational technical assistance for its nursing and midwifery educators. A StFX graduate nurse was placed in Rwanda in July 2009 as a junior professional to work with this group for five months.



The XHP is looking forward to building on its past momentum by strengthening its partnership with organizations in Rwanda and Botswana and by continuing its efforts in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

YIP Alumni Profile

Cathleen Connell graduated from StFX in 2002 with a degree in nursing. Upon graduation, she went to Kigali, Rwanda (the first time she had worked overseas) and taught nursing at the Kigali Health Institute, which has led to a continued engagement with Rwanda. "During my internship placement I was teaching, assisted clinical instructing and also worked along side nurses for 6 weeks on a medical unit and labor and delivery," Cathleen says. "In 2008, I went back to Rwanda as a Senior Professional with XHP. I was working closely with Daren Trudeau trying to gather information to write a proposal for funding to assist 5 new nursing schools run by the Ministry of Health Nursing and Midwifery Task Force. I attended a 2 week strategic planning session for the schools in addition to visiting a few of them. I also assisted in the on the ground coordination of the 1st group of StFX nursing students to do clinical training in Rwanda in April 2008. I worked closely with Elsa Arbuthnot Jensen and Colleen Cameron. This year, I assisted Elsa again with the planning and implementation of another group going to Butare Hospital." Cathleen

feels that the preparation she received through YIP, as well as the reentry process, gave her the foundation necessary to grow and learn on the ground.



Her experience with YIP has also been of benefit to her career in Canada: "The exposure and experience I gained during my internship certainly has shaped my nursing career and I have sought out opportunities to gain more insight in the area's of labor and delivery and will soon have an opportunity to work in the North." Upon her first return to Canada, she "realized that if I was to go back again, I would want to have more experience in nursing. I've worked for 3 years at the QE2 in Halifax in General Medicine, Neurology and Intermediate

Care unit." Subsequently, Cathleen worked for over two years in Labour and Delivery in the IWK in Halifax; from November 2008 she worked at the Kelowna General Hospital in the Emergency Department; and has recently taken a new role as a Clinical Instructor for five nursing students from Stenberg College (Registered Psychiatric Nursing) completing their medical/surgical/clinical training.

"Going back in 2008 and reconnecting with many nurses I had either worked with or taught at KHI was very rewarding experience," Cathleen says. "Going back again in 2009 has continued to strengthen those relationships." The Coady YIP experience not only opened doors for Cathleen, it played a prominent role in her increased ability to make a difference in Rwanda. "I feel that having an opportunity to go back in a different capacity in 2008/09, I was able to utilize the experience I gained in 2002 in a way that I could really give back to those who supported me on the ground in Rwanda during my internship."

For information on the 2009/2010 Youth In Partnership Interns, visit www.coady.stfx.ca/youth.

We Hear From....

Udayan Dewan (1988) is working as Director-Programs for PROTTYASHI, a national NGO in Bangladesh.

John Kimanthi Mainga of Kenya (Diploma, 1996) has formed an NGO with other community members called PAIDO. He is considering further study at StFX.



Apollo Jaramogi (front row, second from left) with his fellow-graduates at SDA Bocconi University in Milan, Italy

Mubangizi Bonaventure (Diploma, 1994) is head of the department of Sales & Advertising in the main leading government Newspaper in Uganda, in addition to being the Chairman of Bukinda Co-operative Village Financial Services.

Bishoy Lamie Mansi (Advocacy, 2005) was ordained as a priest in the Coptic Orthodox Church in New Jersey, U.S.A. on June 7, 2009. He also recently completed his dissertation for the Masters in Participation at the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex, UK.

Moussa Gadio (Diploma, 2007) of Mali has recently begun a 2-year M.S.Ed in Adult and Higher Education at the University of Northern Illinois in DeKalb.

Wahida Banu Shapna (Diploma, 1998) has been promoted to the position

of Executive Director of Aparajeyo-Bangladesh (AB) as of June, 2009. AB is a national child rights organization, founded in 1996 when Terre des hommes Foundation (Tdh), Lausanne, Switzerland wanted to localize their Dhaka child rights programs. The program was launched in 1976 to work with children living in and around the slums of the Dhaka city. Its goal was to reduce their unbearable poverty, distress and vulnerability caused by the harshness of slum life.

Fr. Elias Gonsalves (Diploma, 2004) was appointed as Director of the Centre For Social Action and Srvidaya-Centre for Capacity Building (Mumbai) in the spring of 2009, where he will work with the poor and marginalized in the Archdiocese of Mumbai and in Western Region of India. He replaces Fr. Rocky Banz, also a Coady graduate (Diploma, 1991).

Apollo Jaramogi (Diploma, 2002) recently graduated with his Master's of Public Management from the School of Management at SDA Bocconi University in Milan, Italy. Apollo is Executive Director of Uganda Orphans Rural Development Program in Uganda.

Keith Bourne (CU CERT HIST, 1980) was awarded the 2008 Silver Crown of Merit, an award given by the Government of Barbados for meritorious service or achievement in science, the arts, literature, and any other endeavour worthy of national recognition. According to the citation by his employer, the Barbados Public Workers' Co-operative Credit Union Limited, Mr. Bourne's national recognition is due to the significant contribution which he has made to the credit union movement and the financial services sector in Barbados.

Tazumel Haque (Co-op Certificate, 1992) is now working in Dairy Development

Company of Bangladesh Limited (DDCBL). It is a non-profit and non-trade entity registered under the Company Act of Bangladesh. The DDCBL's principal activities focus on training in dairy farm management, providing support services and helping producers access financial services. The Company also helps the farmers to become incorporated under the Company Act so that the farmers become a separate legal entity. The general impacts of the Company are poverty alleviation and an improvement in the quality of the practices on dairy farms due to the increased awareness and support.

Tazumel's responsibilities include providing support services, such as training access to veterinary care and veterinary medicines, immunization (Inoculation), breed improvement by Artificial Insemination, and assistance to the farmers to purchase high quality live stock, facilitate the cooperation of milk producer groups and help secure financing for development and extension of farms.



Keith Bourne receives the 2008 Silver Crown of Merit

Pulcheria Teul (Advocacy, 2007), after working with indigenous women for more than a decade is now a Senator in Belize, and the only indigenous woman involved in Parliament in that country.

Happy Anniversary Silver Jubilee Graduates

For 50 years Coady graduates have been promoting sustainable development worldwide. In this issue, we would like to recognize the Coady Graduates of 1984 and join them in remembering and celebrating the 25th anniversary of their graduation. If you see your name, please get in touch with us to share your memories of the Coady and let us know what you are doing now. Happy Anniversary!

BANGLADESH Mr. Paul Parimal Adhikari, Mr. Mohammed Kamaluddin, **BARBADOS** Mrs. Jeanette Bell, **BELIZE** Mr. Joseph Christy Bradley, Mr. Francis Borgia Lewis, **BOLIVIA** Miss Rosamaria Ruiz, **CANADA** Mr. Donatus Etowa Enang, Miss Polly Greene, Sr. Elizabeth Ann Kinsella, Mr. John Reigle, Mrs. Christine Stewart, **COLOMBIA** Miss Sarita Mejia, **COSTA RICA** Miss Mable Nieto De Aguilar, **EGYPT** Mr. Samir Beshara El-Sabagh Attalla, Mr. Medhat Morris Hanna, Mr. Medhat Maurice Hanna Abdel Sayed, **ENGLAND** Mrs. Claramma Galbraith Kurian, **ETHIOPIA** Mr. Teodros Asfaw, Bro. Roger Brossolasco, Mrs. Chaltu Deressa, Mr. Asfaw Kanaa, **GAMBIA** Mr. John Davidson Cole, Miss Sainabou Faal, **GHANA** Mr. Ben Wallace Caiquo, Miss Susan Dagadu, **GUYANA** Mr. Joshua Nol Persaud, **INDIA** Rev. Arockiasamy, Mr. Asirvatham, Mr. Vincent Benedict, Miss Radha Bhatt, Rev. Temsey Croos, Miss Suman Dabholkar, Mr. William D'souza, Dr. George, Mrs. Renana Jhabvala, Rev. Michael Joseph Kunnathoor, Miss Ingrid Mendonca, Rev. Arthur Pereira, Mr. Akasapu Prasad, Sr. Maria Goretti Quadros, Rev. Cyril Sequeira, Mr. Shamsuddeen, Fr. Joachim Tirkey, Mr. Thomas Vayalil, Mr. Watkins Vijayakumar, **JAMAICA** Mr. Vondy Mcfarlane, **KENYA** Miss Janet Lugonzo-Campbell, Mrs. Julie Akinyi Mulaha, Mrs. Margaret Ogal Ogot, **MALAWI** Mr. Bastarge Shadrek Kambauwa, **MALAYSIA** Mr. Muhammad Bin Abu Bakar, Miss Hazilah Bte Hassan, **NEPAL** Mr. Kailash Kumar Dewan, **NIGERIA** Mrs. Pauline Eyisi, Mrs. Victoria Unaku Nwako, Mr. Waje Yayok, **PHILIPPINES** Sr. Remedios Marcos, **SOUTH AFRICA** Mr. Joseph Baloyi, Mr. Norbert Biyase, Miss Lindy Joyce Khumalo, Mr. Duncan Zenyuse Mehlomakulu, Mr. Mduduzi Cyril Ndlovu, Mr. Walter Siphonkosi, Mr. Lazarus Lekgolo Ramalepe, Mr. Tshidumbu Herman Seaba, **SRI LANKA** Mr. Gallege Punyawardana Alvis, Mr. Kandauda Cyril De Silva, Mr. Don Kingsly Edirimanne, Rev. Peter Charles Fernando, Miss Shireen Samarasuriya, **ST. LUCIA** Mr. Michael Louis, **SUDAN** Mr. Amadeo Awad Mohammed, **TANZANIA** Mr. Andrew Hepelwa, Mr. Joseph Stephen Mbatta, Miss Zakia Meghji, Mr. Mngulu Mnyone, Mrs. Betty Mwaluli, Mr. Bartholomew Mwelupungwi, Mrs. Amina Suleiman, Mrs. Odilia Tibaijuka, **THAILAND** Mr. Dusit Dheppitooon, Mr. Preedee Shoteshoung, Miss Ratchanee Sukonthamat, Mr. Arin Thipayarat, Mr. Sombat Wongsriratana, **UGANDA** Rev. John Lule, Mr. Godfrey Mugenyi-Good, Mr. Roosevelt Semakula, **WESTERN SAMOA** Mr. Salu Epati, **ZAMBIA** Mr. John Bwembya, Mrs. Agnes Chimovu, Mr. Arron Kambiambia, Mr. Joe Francisco Makano, Mr. Herbert Joseph Mkangala, Mrs. Nakatindi Yeta Nkana, Mr. Walter Joel Nkana

Alumni Insight

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After graduating from Coady in 1992, I continued working with Uganda Cooperative Savings and Credit Union, a National Organisation as a Field Officer supervising 41 SACCOS. Then from 1995 to 2005, I was working with Uganda Cooperative Alliance, an Apex Organisation on a project funded by Canadian Cooperative Association that was promoting SACCOS and encouraging women involvement both as members and leaders. When the project

ended, I was laid off.

However, I was taken back to Uganda Cooperative Saving and Credit Union as an External Trainer which I am doing to date. This is not a full time job though. When I am free, I do internal audit work for Kajara People's SACCO and Nyarubanga Twimukye SACCO in Ntungamo and Mbarara districts of Western Uganda respectively.

I have picked interest in online distance education, (Advanced

Certificate in Member Owned Micro Finance), if you could update me on the costs involved.

It is good to hear that you preparing to celebrate 50 years. Wish you the best of it and a Happy 2009. God bless you.

Yours faithfully,
Restituta Neema Byarugaba
Uganda

We remember those who have passed away recently:

Sr. Zelma Leblanc from Peru – SS Cert Hist., 1968 (31-Oct-08)
Bro. Nicholas Johannesma from India – SS Cert Hist., 1964 (22-Jan-09)
Mr. Manuel Alonzo from Philippines - Diploma, 1969 (4-Mar-09)
Mr. K.K. Kihika from Uganda-Diploma, 1983 (20-Apr-09)
Mrs. Elisabeth Andoga from Papua New Guinea-Diploma, 1999 (3-Mar-09)
Dr. Kevin Donatus Lemorvan from Venezuela-Diploma, 1961 (3-Mar-09)

This is a reminder that it is time to start applying for a spot in one of our educational programs which will be offered in 2010:

Diploma in Development Leadership

- A 19 week intensive professional development program designed to build leadership and strengthen organizational capacity

Certificates in:

- Advocacy & Citizen Engagement *
- Community-Based Conflict Transformation & Peacebuilding
- Community-Based Microfinance *
- Livelihoods & Markets *
- Organizational Learning & Change
- Mobilizing Assets for Community-Driven Development
- Community Development Leadership by Women *
- Member-Owned Microfinance Institutions (Distance Learning)
- Facilitating & Training Approaches for Community Change
- Community-Based Natural Resource Management
- Community-Driven Health Impact Assessment



*** APPLY NOW FOR OUR MAY 2010 OFFERING**

Master of Adult Education, Community Development Stream (through partnership with the Department of Adult Education, St. Francis Xavier University)

The Coady Connection is an annual publication series. Correspondence may be sent to the editor of The Coady Connection: coadycom@stfx.ca, or by mail to the Coady International Institute: PO Box 5000, Antigonish, NS, Canada, B2G 2W5.



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Community-driven Health Impact Assessment: *the PATH to developing healthy communities*

by Colleen Cameron

Senior Program Staff, Coady International Institute

People Assessing Their Health (PATH) is a process that uses community health impact assessment to build the capacity of people to become active participants in the decisions that affect the well-being of their community. The process is grounded in the principles of adult education and the belief that people know a lot about what makes them and their communities healthy.

THE HISTORY OF PATH

Since 1996, the PATH Network, a diverse group of individuals and organizations interested in the health of communities, have been coming together to share ideas and resources in order to help communities critically analyze the factors that impact the health of their communities through the use of the PATH process.

The PATH process was originally developed in 1996. At the time, the Nova Scotia health system was undergoing reform and decentralizing. Communities were being asked to take on much of the responsibility for health, yet they did not have the knowledge or tools to be able to critically analyze their health situation. While health impact assessment was being used by various governments across the country, the PATH process was unique in that it involved community members in assessing the impact of a variety of factors on the health of their community. It has since been initiated in a number of communities in Nova Scotia with health boards and other community organizations as well as in other parts of Canada. (PATHways, 1997)

PATH has also been initiated in two villages in West Bengal, India. In partnership with the Association for Social and Health Advancement (ASHA) of Kolkata, PATH was introduced to a women's self-help group in Chandamari, Murshidabad and with the management committee of the village tourism project in Mukutmanipur. In both situations the villagers were able to critically examine the factors that determine their health and develop a CHIAT tool they can use to assess the impact of future projects or programs. More recently the PATH process was used with the Centre for Indigenous Knowledge and Organizational Development (CIKOD) in Accra, Ghana.



CIKOD staff discussing possible indicators of well-being

WHAT IS HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT?

Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is a relatively new, but rapidly growing, approach to examining how economic, political, social and environmental policies and programs will affect the overall health of people. It has been used by governments in Canada, as well as in Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

The International Health Impact Assessment Consortium (IMPACT) defines HIA as "the estimation of the effects of a specified action on the health of a defined population." Its twofold purpose is to assess the potential health impacts – both positive and negative – of policies, programs and projects and to improve the quality of public policy decision-making through recommendations to enhance predicted positive health impacts and minimize negative ones. (Barnes, R. & Scott-Samuel, A. (2000).

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT (CHIA)

Community health impact assessment (CHIA) is one way to bring the health concerns of the community forward in discussions of public policy. It can be seen as a strategy that supports and encourages informed community participation in planning and policy development. A CHIA looks at the wide range of factors both within and outside the health sector and hence is useful in examining any proposed policy, program, project or service that will affect the population. It is not meant to determine if a policy or program is “right” or “wrong”. Rather, it suggests ways to maximize the benefits or the positive effects of the policy or program and to minimize potential harm or negative effects.

Community health impact assessment is most effective when used before a program or policy is implemented. It can also be used during the implementation phase of a program or policy to identify areas for corrective action. Finally, if it is used at the end of a program it can become part of a formal evaluation process.

DEVELOPING A COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT TOOL (CHIAT)

Focus on the *process*

The PATH process enables community members to develop their own Community Health Impact Assessment Tool (CHIAT). The facilitated PATH process increases awareness of the determinants of health while the use of the CHIAT enables the community to assess policies and programs that will have an effect on the health of their communities. Following are the steps involved in creating the tool and doing an assessment.

STEP 1:

Answer the question “What does it take to make and keep our community healthy?”

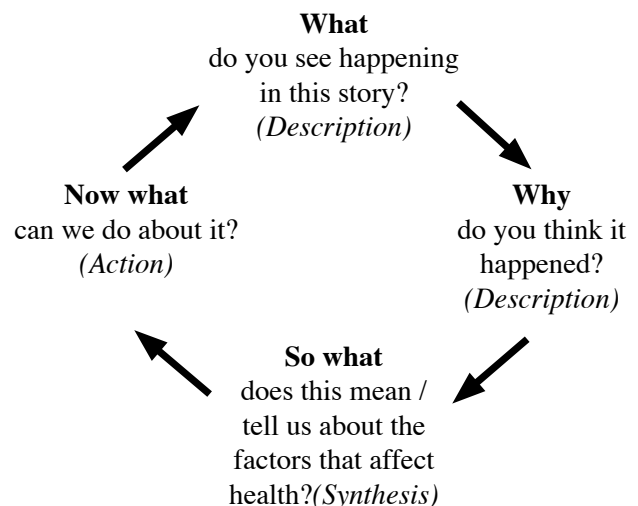
The PATH process is grounded in the belief that people know best what makes and keeps their community healthy. Having them share their views in small groups, building on life experiences and encouraging people to identify all of the factors that influence health and well-being is an important way to identify what needs to be included in a CHIAT.

The most effective technique used in the PATH process is the “structured dialogue” approach to story-telling

(Labonte, R. & Fether, J., 1996). This technique reinforces the belief that, as adults, we learn a lot from our life experiences. The story-telling approach, which is modeled on adult learning principles, enables people to reflect on their experiences and then consider future actions based on a new understanding.

With the help of a facilitator, people are invited to tell a story about their life experience, reflecting on the many factors that have influenced their health. The facilitator then guides the discussion, asking key questions to help the group move through the learning cycle illustrated below.

Another approach is to distribute common everyday pictures that are found in magazines, newspapers, calendars, etc., and have each person describe what things in the picture represent something about “health”. This allows people to identify the many factors that affect the health of individuals and communities.



The key is to encourage people to think about “health” in a broad sense, not only health services. Using either or both of these techniques works well in answering the question “What does it take to make and keep our community healthy?”

STEP 2:

Develop a “Vision of a Healthy Community”

A vision of what a healthy community would look like is essential to community health impact assessment. This vision becomes the standard used to judge the positive or negative impact of potential programs, policies or projects.

A vision can be short or long but it should try to do the following things:

- reflect the priorities of the community;
- use language that is simple and meaningful to the community; and
- be easily understood by anyone who reads it.

A vision of a healthy community can be developed by inviting people to think ahead at least 10 years. *What would a healthy community look like 10 years from now?* A facilitator guides the discussion and encourages people to focus on the opportunities, not the problems. The key points are then written down in the form of a “vision of a healthy community”. This is a different process from visioning for a strategic plan; rather it is to identify an ideal healthy community.

**STEP 3:
Identify the factors that contribute to the vision**

Make a list of all of the “factors” that you will consider when you are assessing a program or policy. A simple way to do this is to identify each of the key words or phrases in the “vision” and then, for each key word, brainstorm all of the things that would be happening in the community if the vision was a reality. These are the descriptors or indicators of a healthy community. Try to avoid duplication (but don’t leave anything out) and try not to put two priorities together in one statement or phrase.



CIKOD staff proposing a vision statement for a healthy community

Review the list and add any factors that appear to be missing or considerations that are important for the community. The list can be reorganized several times until it fairly represents the best thinking of the community. The language should be simple, clear, and meaningful to people in the community. It should avoid jargon words, technical terms, and acronyms or abbreviations.

**STEP 4:
Design the tool**

What the CHIAT looks like (its presentation or “format”) will depend on community preferences and needs, combined with creativity and common

sense. Experience suggests that a few basic elements are required in order for the impact assessment to be useful.

There should be a *worksheet* that lists all of the factors for consideration in the assessment. The worksheet should contain space for recording your judgment about the impact a policy will have on each factor. It is helpful to include options so that people can record whether or not the policy will have an impact (yes or no) and, if yes, whether or not that impact will be positive or negative.

The worksheet should also have a place to indicate when more information is needed in order to make an informed assessment. This will help ensure that the impact assessment is based on evidence (whether quantitative or qualitative). There should also be a place for recording any comments, such as the impact on particular groups within the community or the need to pay attention to specific concerns.

Finally, the CHIAT should have a “Summary Page(s)”. The summary is the crucial step in impact assessment because this is where the assessment draws overall conclusions, highlights the positive and negative effects that a proposed policy will have, and begins to identify actions to maximize the benefits and minimize the harm.

A template example of a tool that was developed by the Antigonish Town and County Community Health Board and can be found on the Antigonish Women’s Resource Centre website at <http://www.antigonishwomenscentre.com/reports.htm>.

**STEP 5:
Test the CHIAT and make revisions**

The most effective way to test the CHIAT is to have a group of people actually do a health impact assessment of a policy or program they are familiar with, using the tool. The goal is to see if the tool is clear and understandable and to ensure that it addresses all of the factors that make a community healthy.

STEP 6:

Make a plan to *use* the CHIAT

A tool that sits on a shelf isn't much help to anyone. There should be a clear plan for when and how the CHIAT will be used – something that goes beyond good intentions. There could be a formal policy that sets out what kinds of programs or policies require a community health impact assessment. Another approach is to name someone within the organization or community who will be the designated “CHIAT Advocate” with responsibility for bringing the CHIAT to everyone's attention when there is a need for its use. At minimum, plan to review the CHIAT once a year, familiarize people with its purpose and contents, and review the factors to ensure that they continue to reflect community priorities.

It can also be helpful to tell other groups and policy makers about community health impact assessment and let them know that there is a resource they can use in their own deliberations.

Other ways to use CHIA / CHIATs

People Assessing Their Health (PATH) has promoted the use of community health impact assessment (CHIA) as a *strategy* or way to increase community participation in health planning and decision-making. One concrete element of the strategy is the development of a community health impact assessment tool (CHIAT) – a *resource* that provides a systematic way to assess policies and programs.

The development of a vision of a healthy community is a very good first step for communities to identify their community development priorities. This can be followed up with approaches and tools to help community members identify their assets and strategies for development.

Community health impact assessment is a way of engaging people in the development of healthy public policy. As a vehicle to enable informed citizen participation, it is a process that can and should reflect local priorities and local perspectives.

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