

30

TOP 30 UNDER 30

*Thirty Youth from
Alberta and the
Global South who
are Making a
Difference in
the World*



PRESENTED BY
THE ALBERTA COUNCIL FOR
GLOBAL COOPERATION



MAGAZINE MANAGEMENT

Diane Connors

MAGAZINE WRITER

Richie Assaly

MAGAZINE DESIGN

Courtenay Ruth McKay

COVER PHOTO

Elise Pullar; photographed by Dave Pullar

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The **Alberta Council for Global Cooperation (ACGC)** is a coalition of voluntary sector organizations located in Alberta, working locally and globally to achieve sustainable human development.

ACGC is committed to international cooperation that is people-centred, democratic, just, inclusive, and respectful of the environment and indigenous cultures. We work towards ending poverty and achieving a peaceful and healthy world, with dignity and full participation for all.

Members of the Council pursue these goals through supporting global citizenship programs and participatory projects with international partners.

The Council's goal is to support the work of its members through networking, leadership, information sharing, training and coordination, and represents their interests when dealing with government and others. The objectives of the Council are to promote and mobilize greater Albertan participation in assisting international development.

CONTACT ACGC



Suite 205
10816A 82 (Whyte) Avenue
Edmonton AB
T6E 2B3

phone: 780-988-0200

fax: 780-988-0211

web: www.acgc.ca

 facebook.com/acgcnow

 [@ACGCNow](https://twitter.com/ACGCNow)

 youtube.com/acgcnow

Extraordinary **young people** are creating a more **just & sustainable world!**

ACGC's Top 30 Under 30 magazine features 30 outstanding young global citizens and explores their ideas and actions as positive change-makers in our global community. Through them, we share in some great stories about what is being done in Alberta and internationally to make a difference in the world.

Many of the youth featured are involved with ACGC member organizations, and work in many different areas related to developing communities for a just and sustainable world. These young people work on gender issues, environmental sustainability, politics, education, health, community services, and other areas. Every person featured in this magazine has demonstrated action toward making a positive difference in the world within their own sphere of influence.

This magazine is meant to inspire—to show that good work is already being done and that it is possible to get involved and make a difference at any age, in a variety of different ways!

International **Development Week**

The Top 30 Under 30 Magazine is part of the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation's programming for International Development Week (IDW) 2014. For the past 24 years, International Development Week has been celebrated in Canada during the first week of February. It provides a unique opportunity for Canadian organizations and individuals to share their successes and achievements in international development.

International Development Week 2014 takes place February 2-8 across Canada. Visit the government of Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development website to learn more about IDW and nation-wide events: www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/IDW.

ACGC also works together with the University of Alberta to host an annual Youth Day for high school students at the end of January. Visit the U of A's Global Education website (www.gloaled.ualberta.ca/InternationalWeek.aspx) to learn more about their extensive International Week program.

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THE ISTANBUL PRINCIPLES

All of the youth featured in this magazine have achieved change by working within **Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)** like NGOs, student associations, and sports groups. The **Istanbul Principles** are a set of **mutually shared values** guiding the development of CSOs worldwide. They were developed in 2011 by the “Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness” with input from thousands of CSOs around the globe. ACGC endorses the Istanbul Principles as **principles of effective development**. Find out more about the Istanbul Principles and the work of the Open Forum by visiting cso-effectiveness.org.



1. RESPECT AND PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Develop and implement strategies, activities and practices that promote individual and collective human rights, including the right to development, with dignity, decent work, social justice and equity for all people.



2. EMBODY GENDER EQUALITY AND EQUITY WHILE PROMOTING WOMEN AND GIRLS' RIGHTS

Promote and practice development cooperation embodying gender equity, reflecting women's concerns and experience, while supporting women's efforts to realize their individual and collective rights, participating as fully empowered actors in the development process.



3. FOCUS ON PEOPLE'S EMPOWERMENT, DEMOCRATIC OWNERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

Support the empowerment and inclusive participation of people to expand their democratic ownership over policies and development initiatives that affect their lives, with an emphasis on the poor and marginalized.



4. PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Develop and implement priorities and approaches that promote environmental sustainability for present and future generations, including urgent responses to climate crises, with specific attention to the socio-economic, cultural and indigenous conditions for ecological integrity and justice.



5. PRACTICE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Demonstrate a sustained organizational commitment to transparency, multiple accountability, and integrity in internal operations.



6. PURSUE EQUITABLE PARTNERSHIPS AND SOLIDARITY

Commit to transparent relationships with CSOs and other development actors, freely and as equals, based on shared development goals and values, mutual respect, trust, organizational autonomy, long-term accompaniment, solidarity and global citizenship.



7. CREATE AND SHARE KNOWLEDGE AND COMMIT TO MUTUAL LEARNING

Enhance ways to learn from experience, from other CSOs and development actors, integrating evidence from development practice and results, including the knowledge and wisdom of local and indigenous communities, strengthening innovation and their vision for the future they would like to see.



8. COMMIT TO REALIZING POSITIVE SUSTAINABLE CHANGE

Collaborate to realize sustainable outcomes and impacts of their development actions, focusing on results and conditions for lasting change for people, with special emphasis on poor and marginalized populations, ensuring an enduring legacy for present and future generations.

Creating a more **just** and **sustainable world** is beneficial for everyone.

The world is a global space and what happens in one area is no longer isolated within borders, nations, or geographic regions. Advances in technology and our ever increasing ability to communicate and connect has shrunk our world and made it imperative that our actions are positive and move us toward global solutions.

Young Albertans and people around the world are working together to combat global poverty, structural violence, environmental crises, and a number of other international development and global issues facing the world today. Taking on these challenges is vital if we are to find effective and sustainable solutions to the challenges faced by humanity in the modern day and the future.

Canadians support **international development** and **poverty reduction**.

Since the 1960's, Canada has been a leader in international cooperation—this reputation has been a hallmark of what makes us Canadian.

A 2012 Vision Critical poll showed that the majority of Canadians strongly believe that reducing global poverty is our collective responsibility and is a human rights obligation.

- 75% of Canadians believe that reducing global poverty will help to fulfill human rights obligations. More optimistic than the 56% of Americans and 55% of UK citizens that believe the same.
- Global poverty, the economy, wars and conflict, human rights, and environmental issues (all closely linked) are top global issues most concerning to Canadians.
- A majority of Canadians believe that reducing global poverty will have positive impacts in other areas, including reducing global conflict, reducing pandemics and improving Canada's international reputation.

Read the global poverty study online at acgc.ca under 'Publications.'

Working toward **improving** our **global community** matters!

ACGC is proud to support young leaders who confront difficult global issues and take on these challenges. We believe our work and the work of Civil Society Organizations is important to building a just and sustainable world we all can enjoy living in.

READ UP

Visit your local library to find books that explore issues of social justice and human rights or check out ACGC's social justice reading list. Reading can not only make us better individuals but it can also motivate us to effect greater changes around us.

INFORMATION IS POWER

Connect with mainstream media to learn about local, national and international issues. Find alternative media sources that offer a different perspective on those issues, and critically analyze the information that is being presented by both sides. Remember that all media has bias.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Use social media to stay in touch with political figures, community leaders and groups, and also to engage with them directly. It's an easy and excellent platform to share your thoughts, ideas and concerns. Don't be shy—what you have to say is important.

STORYTELLING

Invite people with lived experience to share their stories with you. This may help you better understand the issues and what your role can be. And don't forget—you have a story too so share it with others. You'll learn more about the world around you, and the people that surround you.

PEOPLE POWER

What are you passionate about? Talk about the issues and brainstorm innovative ways to be a part of the change. Talk to your family and friends, join or start a group with likeminded people, ask questions, and start the conversation.

BUILD NETWORKS

Tap into the existing networks in your community and build alliances with individuals, communities, groups and organizations. Join a board of directors, attend community events, or share your skills. Whether you're good with computers, art, music, editing, mobilizing and recruiting others or organizing logistics, there's a group that could put your skills to good use!

ACTIVISM

Be an engaged and global citizen by expressing your ideas and concerns about what is happening in your local and global world. Write letters to your MP or MLA to express your concerns for (or to vocalize your support for) a particular issue. Write a Letter to the Editor of your local or national newspaper. Take part in a rally or a protest. Joining forces with others is an incredibly impactful way of being heard.

VOTE

Have a voice and make a choice. Voting is one expression of a citizen's right and responsibility to be a part of influencing decisions that are made at every political level.

PRACTICE ETHICAL AND INFORMED CONSUMPTION

Inform yourself about the products, goods and services you use, and the impact they have on the planet and also on others. Before consuming, ask yourself "do I need this?" and "do I know enough about this to determine whether I'm making an ethical choice?"

VOLUNTEER

Donate your time, money, or skills. Do some research and find out which organizations match your interests and value set, then give them a call! Many organizations are looking for committed and engaged volunteers.

ARE YOU A STUDENT? RECENT GRADUATE? ADULT? RETIREE?

Visit the Government of Canada Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) website, at www.acdi-cida.gc.ca. DFATD has great information and opportunities available for people of all ages who are interested in international development.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Check out the ACGC website at www.acgc.ca for information on more than 60 organizations in Alberta working towards sustainable human development and for more resources on how to get involved.

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TOP 30 UNDER 30

30 YOUTH FROM ALBERTA & THE GLOBAL SOUTH
WHO ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD

“Be a human being and help others. We are built to work with one another.”

ALI AHMED



AGE: 29

HOMETOWN:
Mogadishu, Somalia

LIVING IN:
Edmonton, Alberta

ORGANIZATION:
Breath in Poetry Collective

Ahmed “Knowmadic” Ali has an unquenchable thirst for expression. As a poet, an actor, a writer, and a comedian, Ahmed is a towering figure of empowerment and change within the Edmonton Somali diaspora community and beyond. “I use poetry to bridge differences and provide voice for those who are unable to yet speak their thoughts.” Highly acclaimed and nationally recognized, Ahmed’s profound and affecting affinity for the spoken word is already a far-reaching source of inspiration, and he’s just getting started.

Ahmed has a natural passion for community development. In the early days of his youth, he spent much of his free time volunteering at soup kitchens, local mosques, and with other community initiatives. Yet it was not until he stumbled upon acting, drama, and the expressive arts that his vocation became clear. Inspired by the Somali oral tradition, Ahmed turned his energy to poetry, and the accolades quickly followed. In 2011, he and Team Edmonton were named the champions of the Canadian Festival of Spoken Word. In 2013, Ahmed was selected as artist-in-residence at the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute in Seattle.

Despite his success as an artist, Ahmed’s dedication to his community has never floundered. In 2009, he teamed up with a number of Edmonton poets to found the Breath in Poetry Collective – a spoken word and poetry community that aims to facilitate expression, challenge stereotypes, and create intercultural dialogue. Ahmed also organizes poetry slams and free workshops throughout the city, encouraging young individuals from many backgrounds to share their unique perspectives, and to celebrate their diversity. Aside from his role as a mentor and coach, Ahmed has also collaborated with the Islamic Family and Social Services Association, the Edmonton Mennonite Center for Newcomers, the Alberta Teachers Association, the Africa Center, Edmonton Public Schools, the Multi-cultural Coalition, and many other organizations.

With brave words and selfless deeds, Ahmed’s increasing success and influence is a cause for celebration. But in the fashion of a true artist, Ahmed is raising the stakes, and aiming higher: “In a world where legacy is the only thing you can leave behind,” he writes, “it’s not when you enter your grave, but when the last memories of you fade, that you die.”

"Be passionate, get excited about things, then explore them thoroughly."



ANNA-MARIE ROBERTSON

Living in the Netherlands as a Rotary Youth Exchange Student, Anna-Marie found sanctuary and inspiration at the Peace Palace Library, a prestigious institution in The Hague dedicated to international law. "I was astounded by the vastness of information available and the community of open-minded, international thinkers," she explains. "The time I spent there fuelled my desire to build a culture of peace and not only continue to educate myself but others as well."

Even before her life-changing experience in the Netherlands, Anna-Marie was drawn to global affairs and international relations. She jumped at educational opportunities for youth, participating in the Global Youth Assembly—an international human rights forum for youth hosted by the John Humphrey Center – and the student-oriented Seminar on the United Nations and International Affairs (SUNIA). In 2011, after a rigorous selection process, Anna-Marie was selected by the Rotary Club of Edmonton to participate in the yearlong Rotary Youth Exchange Program for the 2012–2013 school year. Only 16-years old, Anna-Marie quickly developed an impressive sense of independence, tolerance, and intercultural respect, while embarking on a self-directed journey to educate herself about international law, the history of international peace work, and global citizenship.

Returning from her trip with an ambitious drive to promote a culture of peace, Anna-Marie shared her experience with audiences both small and large, encouraging engagement in community and international development. Anna-Marie also founded the Interact Club at Victoria Composite High School in Edmonton. Formally affiliated with Rotary International, Interact Club is a space for youth aged 12 to 18 to join together to learn leadership skills and create positive change within their communities and internationally. As President, Anna-Marie has overseen the group's significant growth, and has worked tirelessly to raise awareness regarding social justice and human rights issues.

Anna-Marie is also actively involved with the Canadian Red Cross, currently a Facilitator for the Red Cross Youth Leaders Council (RYCL). RYCL is a program that brings together a group of engaged youth looking to expand and share their knowledge of the Canadian Red Cross and other Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, and to enhance their community development and leadership skills. Further, Anna-Marie is Secretary for the University of Alberta Chapter of the John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights, and the Director of Advocacy for the University's Chapter of the Ainembabazi Children's Project, which seeks to enhance educational opportunities and the quality of life for orphans and vulnerable children in Uganda.

With an impressive grasp on international humanitarian law, Anna-Marie's work offers a vital reminder to give peace a chance. "Peace is the fundamental aspect to community development: peace fosters respect, mutual understanding, enforces inclusiveness and promotes a just and fair society."

AGE: 17

HOMETOWN:
Edmonton, Alberta

ORGANIZATIONS:
Canadian Red Cross
Rotary Club of Edmonton*
John Humphrey Centre for
Peace and Human Rights*
Ainembabazi
Children's Project*



*ACGC MEMBER
ORGANIZATION

ASHLEY FAIRALL

AGE: 29

HOMETOWN:

Edmonton, Alberta

ORGANIZATIONS:

MacEwan Sexual Health Centre

Alberta NDP LGBT Caucus

Edmonton Beverly-Clareview NDP

Queer Royale Gender Performance Drag Troupe

Calgary Public Interest Research Group

Next Up



PHOTO CREDIT: ANGELKEY PHOTOGRAPHY

“When I take a stand, I know that every action counts, and that I am never alone.”

With firm conviction and a fine-tuned critical eye, Ashley Fairall seeks to embody social justice with each action, from the ambitious to the mundane. As an activist, a performer, and a friend, Ashley is dedicated to dismantling the barriers that stand in the way of equality, and to sharing and spreading a vision of justice. “Whether it be in their family units, communities, neighbourhoods, cities, or beyond, a global citizen takes a stand against the obvious and the subtle injustices they see in the world around them,” Ashley explains.

Ashley’s impressive capabilities as a community leader were shaped in part by participation in the Next Up program – an intensive and transformative program designed to empower, inform, and engage young activists intent on making progressive social change. Currently a volunteer with Next Up, Ashley’s involvement is integral to the program’s ongoing and increasing success.

In addition to working with Next Up, Ashley is involved in a number of community development organizations in Alberta, with a particular focus on sexual health and consent, through a feminist lens. Ashley is the co-instigator of the McEwan Sexual Health Club (MSHC), which aims to provide a space for comprehensive, intersectional sexual health information and resources for young people. “The MSHC is working to facilitate sex-positive, inclusive

dialogue around addressing some of the very real issues impacting university students’ sexual health and wellbeing.” Ashley is currently working with the STI clinic in Edmonton to provide free STI testing for students on campus. A yoga instructor, Ashley was also a driving force behind the establishment of Kickboxing and Yoga for Queers—a program seeking to provide a safer space for healthy activity for the Edmonton LGBTQ community.

“Being queer, feminist, and a yogi are central to every aspect of my life,” Ashley explains. “It was in coming to realize and honour these things that I began to take action on issues I care about.” In response to a series of actions by a local anti-feminist/men’s rights group in Edmonton, Ashley spearheaded the creation of an online video titled “A Voice for Men is Not a Voice for Me” – a compilation of male volunteers voicing their opinions against the men’s rights group. The video quickly went viral, and facilitated an important public discussion about feminism and misogyny. “When I take a stand, I know that every action counts, and that I am never alone.”

Ashley is currently completing a diploma in Social Work, is involved in politics, works part time for an Edmonton MLA, is the Co-Chair of the LGBT caucus for the Alberta New Democrat Party, and is also a performer and organizer for the Queer Royale Gender Performance and Drag Troupe.



“We need to let the principle of humanity guide us.”

BASHIR MOHAMMED

Candid and critical, Bashir Mohamed is a diligent servant of social justice, and a sincere advocate for marginalized populations across the globe. “Stuff sucks, but it doesn’t have to suck,” he affirms. “Let’s break the idea that there has to be poverty or that there has to be war.” With an extensive and impressive history of community service and volunteer work, and with an eye on public office, Bashir has big plans to reshape public policy, and to lead Canadians according to the principles of global citizenship.

Born in Nairobi, Kenya, Bashir spent years in a refugee camp before his family moved to Canada. As a high school student in Edmonton with an optimistic pride in his new country and a unique perspective on its role on the international stage, Bashir was actively involved in a multitude of international development initiatives while he simultaneously worked to complete his Air Cadet Training with the Royal Canadian Cadets Organization. In his first year of high school, Bashir participated in the Seminar for the United Nations and International Affairs (SUNIA) program, where he connected with students from around the world to discuss global issues. He was also a founding member of the Student Led Initiative for Sustainable Education (SLISE), an organization that advocated for environmental sustainability in public schools citywide, and which installed solar panels on Queen Elizabeth High School in Edmonton.

Throughout high school, Bashir also worked tirelessly to raise funds for development and relief overseas. “You cannot see bor-

ders from space. We need to address all global problems as our problems,” he explains. In 2011, he worked with a group of other students to raise \$11,000 in funds to send 1,500 water filters to Haiti, where despite international aid, populations are still severely affected by preventable water-borne illnesses. He also led donation drives to raise funds for vulnerable children in Ethiopia, and for victims of the Somali famine. In 2012, in recognition of his efforts in Haiti, Bashir received a Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal for extraordinary citizenship.

As he prepares for a bid at public office with the federal NDP, Bashir is working with a number of political organizations and governing bodies within his community and at the University of Alberta. He is currently a member of the Youth Advisory Council for the Edmonton Community Foundation, an elected Counselor for the Faculty of Arts with the University of Alberta Students’ Union, a member of the Union’s External Advocacy Group, and a member of Doctors for Refugee Health Care. Using his position of Counselor with the Students’ Union, Bashir also worked with World University Services to sponsor two refugees to study at the University.

Bashir’s diverse efforts and inspiring leadership, both in his community and abroad, are motivated by a single source: “We need to let the principle of humanity guide us. Education, health, and environmental issues will all fall into place if we keep that principle before anything else.”

AGE: 19

HOMETOWN:
Nairobi, Kenya

LIVING IN:
Edmonton, Alberta

ORGANIZATIONS:
Doctors for Refugee Health Care
NDP
U of A Students' Union
Edmonton Community Foundation

"In the face of senseless violence, greed, and corruption, love is what we can make a stand for."

CHELSEA TAYLOR FLOOK

For Chelsea Flook, the key to positive social change is the notion of solidarity. "Global citizenship translates to global solidarity and alliance building between movements in order to oppose coercive economic, social, and political systems that oppress communities," she says. As a leading organizer and campaigner for environmental justice and the rights of First Nations, both on a volunteer-basis and as a professional, Chelsea connects movements towards social justice in Alberta.

Originally from Guelph, Ontario, Chelsea moved to Alberta in 2010, and quickly immersed herself into the environmental justice community. Working with the Sierra Club of Canada Prairie Chapter, first as a Campaigner and next as Executive Director, Chelsea was an effective advocate for renewable energy, water rights, and First Nation rights, and worked tirelessly to strengthen ties of solidarity between various environmental organizations, rural Albertans, and First Nation communities.

On top of her professional work, Chelsea is also a key organizer with the Idle No More movement for indigenous sovereignty and environmental protection. In addition to her work coordinating communications, promoting events, and providing outreach to non-indigenous organizations and individuals, Chelsea has also sought to promote the notion of 'art and activism'. Motivated by the belief that art plays a crucial role in disseminating messages and garnering support for social change, she has facilitated the production of banners, placards, and patches. "For me, art has always been a central part of expressing ideas from an emotional intelligence framework," she explains.

An extension of her volunteer work with Idle No More, Chelsea volunteers and provides outreach



for the Tar Sands Healing Walk – an annual community-oriented event held in Fort McMurray that focuses on healing the environment and the people affected by oil-sands development. Chelsea has also provided support for the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation's ongoing resistance to oilsands expansion, and for the Beaver Lake Cree First Nation's lawsuit against oilsands projects for a multitude of Treaty violations.

In the end, Chelsea's aptitude for building solidarity and facilitating positive collaborations between diverse actors in the activist community is inspired by a simple idea. "It's important to be mindful of where our motivation for justice comes from. For me, it comes from a profound sense of love, for people and all the incredible beings that live on this earth together. Never forget that it starts with love. In the face of senseless violence, greed, and corruption, love is what we can make a stand for."

AGE: 29

HOMETOWN:
Guelph, Ontario

LIVING IN:
Edmonton, Alberta

ORGANIZATIONS:
Alberta Parkland Institute
Mother Earth Action Co-op
Sierra Club Prairie Chapter



“Improving fairness and opportunities for people facing barriers actually makes things better for everyone.”

COURTNEY ROBERTSON

For Courtney Robertson, effective community development starts with critical analysis and an informed understanding of the intersectionality of social issues. “A strong belief in the intrinsic connections between the dynamics of oppression and marginalization inspire me to pursue a diverse array of interests and approach community development from a number of angles,” she says. As a social worker, an academic, a volunteer, and a mother, Courtney’s dynamic efforts as a community builder are the catalyst of significant and meaningful social change.

With undergraduate degrees in Development Studies and Social Work under her belt, Courtney is currently finishing off her Masters in Social Work at the University of Calgary, while simultaneously working as a full-time community social worker with the City of Calgary’s Community & Neighbourhood Services. In her role as a social worker, Courtney has worked predominantly with youth, collaborating with various community partners to engage youth in discussions about the issues that matter most to them, and facilitating initiatives to address these issues. Courtney has been involved in community projects ranging from issues of teen suicide, water and sanitation in developing countries, youth rights in the criminal justice system, bullying, homophobia, and poverty. During the floods of 2013, Courtney was reassigned to assist in flood relief, managing volunteers and supplies at temporary shelters, and supporting youth left without community programs.

Courtney is also deeply involved with the CommunityWise Resource Centre—a community-driven, collaborative space for multi-sector groups to pursue their activities in the pursuit of community development and social change. As a practicum student at CommunityWise, Courtney quickly adopted a leadership role. She worked on mentoring volunteers, initiating the delivery of consensus decision-making training sessions and facilitating a number of projects, from community kitchen programs to suicide prevention and intervention sessions for member organizations. For the past 2 years, Courtney has sat on the Board of Directors for CommunityWise, offering tough analysis and challenging the organization to think critically about its values and the ways in which they are realized.

Despite the complex and intersecting character of oppression and inequality at the global scale, Courtney believes that each individual has the power and capacity to contribute to change. “Just as the personal is political, what we do locally in our day-to-day lives can either perpetuate or disrupt unequal global relations. If, as citizens of this planet, we want to address the systemic problems of our world, we need to collaborate and be actively engaged in making positive change.”

AGE: 27

HOMETOWN:
Calgary, Alberta

ORGANIZATIONS:
CommunityWise
Resource Centre
Arusha Centre

DAN SCRATCH

AGE: 29

HOMETOWN:
Tecumseh, Ontario

LIVING IN:
Edmonton, Alberta

ORGANIZATIONS:
NextUp
Inner City High School



“If we want the citizens of tomorrow to be involved and active global citizens, then we have to start practicing this in our classrooms.”

For Dan Scratch, community development begins with an education that takes social justice seriously. As a social studies teacher at Inner City High School in Edmonton, Alberta, Dan is dedicated to using education as a tool to empower youth to become critically engaged citizens with the power to transform their lives and the world around them. “In a world filled with inequalities and barriers,” he explains, “an education steeped in social justice is essential in helping students recognize the contradictions around them, and understand how we can be a part of the process to create a more equitable world.”

Dan’s approach to education is unique. With an undergraduate degree in History from the University of Windsor and a Masters of Education from Mount Saint Vincent University, Dan’s teaching practice is grounded in “critical and reality pedagogy” – a technique which incorporates particular aspects of local youth culture in order to engage students in their academic work, and encourage their participation in community development and social justice outside of the classroom. At Inner City High School, where Dan works with predominantly at-risk youth, embracing youth culture means incorporating various aspects of hip-hop culture into the classroom. Whether rapping about identity, emceeding a class discussion about democracy, or using graffiti to explore issues of so-

cial justice, the students at Inner City High School are transcending the notion of education as simply technical training for future work. By allowing them to learn through the lens of their own culture and to play to their strengths, Dan helps his students take ownership of their learning and be proud of who they are.

However, Dan’s passion for social justice is not limited to the classroom. As a participant in the Next Up leadership program for social and environmental justice and the author of a blog titled “Teaching for Social Justice,” he is committed to expanding the dialogue around the interplay between social justice and education, while encouraging other teachers and educators to take a critical approach to their teaching.

Innovative, compassionate, and intelligent, Dan Scratch is the high school teacher we all wish we had. “Be a sponge and soak everything up,” he advises, “but never underestimate your own voice.”



"If you have the capacity and the passion to do something, it is your duty to help others in a meaningful way."

DAVE FAFARD

creation and implementation of a sanitary landfill project in the Koinadugu district of Sierra Leone. This innovative waste management initiative was the first of its kind in the region, and its success raised awareness within the community regarding environmental, health, and sanitation issues. "Infrastructure projects with an environmental focus, whether in water and sanitation or waste management, can directly and positively affect people's lives within a short period of implementation," Dave explains.

Following his internship, Dave extended his stay in Kabala. Working with the Municipal Government, a number of community organizations, and the District Medical Officer, and fostering a new partnership between the community and CAUSE Canada, Dave has laid the groundwork for a sustainable waste management program. In 2013 and early 2014, Dave was sent back to Kabala to assist with the CAUSE Canada Salone Women's Empowerment Trust (SWET), a micro-finance institution for women in Sierra Leone. Dave is currently the Branch Manager for SWET in Kabala, working on the improvement of inefficiencies, the oversight of disbursement, and the maintenance of the program's integrity. "It is exciting for me to see the SWET program grow and be fruitful in its mission of empowering women to grow their businesses and lift themselves out of poverty where they and their families can have a better quality of living which they deserve," Dave says.

Known and respected around Kabala as 'Mr. Sanitary Landfill,' Dave, now healed, maintains an unshakable commitment to efficient and sustainable development far from home is a fascinating success story.

It will take a lot more than a life-threatening motorcycle accident to derail Dave Fafard's efforts to bring environmentally sustainable infrastructure to communities in the Global South. Just hours after an emergency operation in Freetown saved his life, Dave was asking for a telephone to make sure that the landfill project he was working in Kabala, Sierra Leone, remained on schedule.

After completing his degree in philosophy at the University of Calgary, Dave moved to Canmore, where in addition to his work as a stone mason, he acted as a Youth Advisor and Spokesperson for AADAC, educating and designing programs about drug and alcohol awareness for youth in Alberta. Subsequent to his travels throughout Southeast Asia and Central America and a renewed interest in international development, Dave joined CAUSE Canada—a Canmore-based NGO with partners and development projects in Honduras, Guatemala, and Sierra Leone.

In 2012, Dave was selected for an internship with CAUSE in Sierra Leone funded by the Canadian government. Setting his sights high, Dave decided to pursue the

AGE: 29

HOMETOWN:
Drummondville, Quebec

LIVING IN:
Canmore, Alberta; currently
working in Sierra Leone

ORGANIZATION:
CAUSE Canada*



*ACGC MEMBER
ORGANIZATION

“It is important to have an attitude of learning and a readiness to try new ideas.”

EDELBERTO ANDINO



AGE: 27

HOMETOWN:

Santa Cruz, Honduras

ORGANIZATION:

*Canadian Peacemakers
International



*ACGC MEMBER
ORGANIZATION

Edelberto (Edel) Andino is more than just another young computer whiz. Applying his skills as a computer technician to increase education access throughout Honduras, Edel's efforts have benefited youth from every corner of his home country.

Edel graduated from high school as a computer technician in a country where 60% of students are unable to complete junior high school because of logistical, financial, or bureaucratic reasons. Joining up with Canadian Peacemakers International (CPI) - an organization that provides educational and health programming for impoverished communities in Central America - Edel helps to create a broadly accessible, digitally-based education program for the students of Honduras. It's a project called the Computer Assisted Learning Program - an alternative platform for junior high-level education. Four years later, over 400 students from across the country have taken advantage of this innovative initiative.

Beyond his work as main technician and programmer for the Computer Assisted Learning Program at the Centro de Enseñanza Fraternidad in Santa Cruz de Yojoa, Edel has become an educator, himself. Edel learned a diversity of skills from CPI, and spreads the basics of accounting to students and community members in order to encourage responsible spending and investing. With an interest in nutrition and agriculture, Edel also worked with CPI to create a new educational website for Sustainable and Innovative Agriculture for Tropical Countries.

Exuding an appetite for learning and a willingness to experiment with new ideas, Edel's work offers an inspiring example of the power of technology when mixed with creativity and heart.



“There is more to life than possessions or profit. Life’s reward is in the relationships we make and the care that we take to leave the world in a better condition than we got it.”

ELISE PULLAR

Aberhart High School, where she advocated and fundraised for the implementation of eco-friendly and ethically made physical education school attire—an initiative for which she was awarded the 2013 Jack Leslie Youth Environment Award.

Elise’s passion for environmental protection is infectious. “My individually socially conscious actions seemed insignificant at first,” she admits, “but my attitude soon began to influence my friends, co-workers, teachers, and the broader community.” Recently, she created the Aberhart EcoTeam in order to spread environmental awareness and facilitate student participation in environmentally sustainable projects within the high school community. The EcoTeam has implemented an innovative recycling program for used school supplies, while a new compost initiative is in the works. With Elise’s leadership, the EcoTeam is raising money and working with the Calgary Board of Education to purchase and install a photovoltaic solar panel system for Aberhart High School, which will significantly reduce the school’s electrical consumption, and save up to 10.5 tonnes of carbon emissions each year.

AGE: 17

HOMETOWN:
Calgary, Alberta

ORGANIZATIONS:
Free the Children
Grow Calgary
The Aberhart EcoTeam
Calgary Board of Education EcoTeam*



*ACGC MEMBER ORGANIZATION

Elise was recently selected as an Education First Tours Global Citizen. Along with nine other Canadian high school students, this honor will provide her the opportunity to travel to London, Munich, and Berlin as a representative of Canada at the Science and Innovation Summit. However, despite her growing influence and recognition, Elise’s vision remains simple and clear: “Life’s reward is in the relationships we make and the care that we take to leave the world in a better condition than we got it.”

Elise Pullar firmly believes that positive global change begins with the actions of each individual. Her rapidly growing influence as an environmental activist and leader is a testament to this simple and profound idea.

After participating in a number of international development fundraisers and awareness campaigns as a junior high student, Elise’s goal became clear: “I want to make environmental protection in my community easy and accessible.” Elise’s environmental activism began within her Calgary neighborhood, helping to develop and build a community vegetable garden—spending time encouraging healthy living and teaching children where their food comes from. Next, Elise got to work at William

RHO HAYEONG

AGE: 21

HOMETOWN:
Calgary, Alberta

ORGANIZATIONS:

*Oxfam Canada

Canadian Breast
Cancer Foundation

U of C Health and
Medicine Club

Canadian Blood Services



*ACGC MEMBER
ORGANIZATION



“Everyone deserves equal opportunities through education and human rights empowerment. Earlier involvement in activism allows you to witness the changes in the world you wish for!”

Hayeong Rho provides an outstanding example of active, critical, and global citizenship by leading while encouraging inclusive participation. Hayeong reminds us of the importance of taking an individual step backwards, before moving forward together.

As an undergraduate interested in the distribution of humanitarian aid and disaster response, Hayeong was introduced to concepts of long-term development, human rights, and empowerment. Intrigued and challenged by these alternative approaches to development, Hayeong attended Oxfam’s 2012 National CHANGE leadership conference in Vancouver. Upon returning to Calgary, she joined Oxfam Canada, determined to share the organization’s vision and contribute to its blend of long-term development and effective short-term relief.

Today, Hayeong leads the Oxfam Canada Campus Group at the University of Calgary, promoting youth engagement in international development and raising awareness of various local and global issues, from women’s rights to environmental justice. Hayeong also took charge and mobilized support for a fundraising campaign to provide relief for those affected by Typhoon Haiyan. The Campus Group is currently planning for an upcoming fundraising and awareness initiative to draw attention to the un-

equal distribution of global wealth and access to quality food. The Hungry 4 Change Hunger Banquet will take place in March 2014. An efficient organizer and effective communicator, Hayeong’s efforts have helped drive the organization’s consistent expansion and widespread presence around campus.

Hayeong is a student of biological science, and has long been interested in health care and health care services. As a Youth Advisory Council ambassador for the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation at the University of Calgary, Hayeong works to educate the student body about risk reduction, early detection, and breast health information. She is also President of the University’s Health and Medicine Club, a volunteer coordinator with Canadian Blood Services, and a ‘cybermentor,’ providing online advice to young women interested in pursuing a career in science.

Passionate but reflective, gentle but determined, Hayeong is an inspiration for a number of emerging leaders in her community working for international development and human rights. As observed by an Oxfam colleague, Hayeong is an exceptional leader because she enables others to shine.

"I believe our contribution to help education in remote areas will accelerate national development. Through education of children we will create educated citizens."



HENDRIYADI BAHTIAR

Hendriyadi Bahtiar believes in the power of young people. "We are the creative and innovative generation," he declares. By empowering youth and harnessing their energy, Hendriyadi aims to raise the bar for primary education, and contribute to a brighter future for children across the world.

Born in Bulukumba, Indonesia, Hendriyadi moved to Jakarta to study at the Universitas Trisakti, where he quickly immersed himself in a number of student organizations. These included the Indonesian Student Association for International Studies, the Islamic Economic Forum, and the South Sulawesi Student Association. In 2009, Hendriyadi moved to Nova Scotia as part of the Canada World Youth Exchange – a six-month program that facilitates youth involvement in community-driven development projects that focus on health, environment, and gender equity.

Following the exchange, Hendriyadi's commitment to community development and youth engagement continued. In 2009, he was selected to represent Indonesia in the World Leadership Conference in Singapore, and in 2010, he traveled to the Philippines for the Asia Pacific Youth Climate Camp. In recognition of his outstanding work with initiatives that promote sustainable development internationally, Hendriyadi was selected as a finalist for the 2012 Canada World Youth Leadership Awards.

Recently, Hendriyadi has shifted his focus towards the development of primary education in Indonesia. "With a limited amount of qualified teachers and very little access to information, many children in rural and coastal regions of Indonesia are denied primary basic education," he explains. His concern inspired the creation of Indonesian Youth for Education – a non-profit organization that aims to increase access to and quality of education, particularly in remote areas of Indonesia. In addition to building libraries and providing scholarships for higher education, the organization also seeks to promote local culture, social entrepreneurship, and environmental education.

In 2012, Hendriyadi founded Sahabat Pulau (Island Friend), a youth-led, community-based project that supports primary education for children throughout Indonesia by facilitating volunteer camps and mentorship programs. With the intent of creating lasting positive impact, Sahabat Pulau is careful to incorporate local wisdom into its approach, ensuring that its programming matches the needs of each unique partner community.

With Youth for Education and Sahabat Pulau, Hendriyadi is improving the lives of children across Indonesia. But he is motivated by something more: "All children should be able to dare to catch their dreams."

AGE: 24

HOMETOWN:
Bulukumba, Indonesia

LIVING IN:
Jakarta, Indonesia

ORGANIZATIONS:
Canada World Youth*
Sahabat Pulau
Indonesian Youth for Education



*ACGC MEMBER ORGANIZATION

HINA KHAN

AGE: 16

HOMETOWN:
Peshawar, Pakistan

LIVING IN:
Edmonton, Alberta

ORGANIZATIONS:
Kids Help Phone
YWCA



"People remember you for the good things you have done, and being involved in the community is a start."

Hina Khan's unwavering dedication to community development is rooted in empathy and compassion. "Each time we act to help others in our community," she explains, "we benefit the world, little by little."

For Hina, who moved to Canada from Pakistan when she was in the third grade, a widely shared sense of belonging is essential for a healthy community. Her experience as "the new kid" inspired her early involvement with Newcomer Orientation Week (NOW) – a program that helps new students and their parents prepare for their first weeks in a Canadian high school. With her deep sense of empathy, Hina is a natural role model and continuing mentor for new students from around the world.

At the young age of 16, Hina's experience as a volunteer and community builder seems impossibly long. In addition to her work with the NOW program at M.E. LaZerte High School, Hina is also

involved with the school's breakfast program, its chapter of the National Kids' Help Phone, the Students' Union, and the Yearbook Committee. In recent years, she has acted as chair of the Pakistan Sub-Committee during M.E. LaZerte's cultural celebration week, and chair for the Pakistan Booth during the annual 'Taste of LaZerte'.

However, Hina's dedication to nourishing an inclusive community extends far beyond the walls of her high school. She is currently an active participant with the YWCA's Y Act Up, a civic engagement and leadership program for young women working towards social change. Hina also volunteers for the Edmonton Public Library as a mentor with the Reading Buddies Program.

Hina's optimism and humble leadership is an important reminder that if we see ourselves in others, working towards change becomes easy.

“Whether you’re fighting against climate change, advocating for gender equity, or teaching others about power and privilege, the end result should always be happiness.”



IAN MOORE

Inspired by the beauty of our planet, and yet fearful for its current environmental and social trajectory, Ian Moore is changing the way Canadians think about sustainability and community engagement. For years, Ian has worked tirelessly to promote public policies that incorporate principles of sustainability and to encourage active citizenship guided by principles of social justice.

Often overused or misunderstood, Ian considers the term ‘sustainability’ to be far more than a buzzword. “Sustainability is a lifestyle and decision-making process that balances social, economic, and environmental responsibility in a just and equitable manner,” he explains. “The term equips me with the criteria according to which I qualify all of my decisions and actions.” In 2008, Ian joined the Environmental Coordination Office of Students (ECOS), which is now known as Sustain SU – the main sustainability office of the University of Alberta Student Union. Eventually rising to the rank of Director, Ian reformed the organization’s strategic plan to broaden its conception of sustainability, incorporating elements of social justice into programming that was previously confined solely to environmental issues. By 2012, Ian had played a significant role in compelling the Students’ Union to incorporate sustainability into its overall strategic plan, its policies, and its lobbying activities.

Ian is also a major proponent of civic and community engagement, believing that the privilege of democracy comes with the responsibility of active citizenship. In order to create a more just,

equitable, and sustainable future, Ian believes citizens must be empowered to play a role in the decision-making processes that shape our communities. During his time with ECOS/Sustain SU, Ian restructured the organization, expanding the number of individuals involved in formal decision-making processes and incorporating consensus-based decision methods.

More recently, Ian collaborated with Alberta Climate Dialogue and the Centre for Public Involvement in facilitating the Citizens’ Panel on Edmonton’s City-Wide food and Urban Agriculture Strategy, and the Citizens’ Panel on Edmonton’s Energy and Climate Challenges. During the Citizens’ Panel, Ian provided support for 56 Edmontonians as they participated in a six-week long dialogue on the city’s upcoming climate and energy plan. He recalls: “during this experience, climate deniers, climate activists, and everyone in between came together to build a progressive and citizen-authored response to the challenges of climate change and energy vulnerability – it was deliberative democracy in action.” For Ian, a just tomorrow requires coming together as a community today.

In order to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation, Ian is working on an ambitious new initiative to create a nation-wide dialogue on citizenship and sustainability: “This event will offer a significant opportunity for Canadians from all generations, regions, and political stripes to reflect on where we’ve come from, where we are, and where we’re going.”

AGE: 26

HOMETOWN:
Edmonton, Alberta

LIVING IN:
Kingston, Ontario

ORGANIZATIONS:
Alberta Climate Dialogue
Liberal Party of Canada



"We have learned about our connectedness as global citizens, and the duty we have to ensure each other's well being."

JAMIL JIVRAJ

AGE: 25

HOMETOWN:
Edmonton, Alberta

ORGANIZATION:
Learning Beyond Borders

An exemplary global citizen dedicated to building bridges between the youth of Canada and the youth of Uganda, Jamil Jivraj's story is one of compassion, audacity, and most importantly, an open-minded willingness to learn from others.

As a high school student in Edmonton, Jamil was deeply moved by the effects of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) insurgency in Northern Uganda. During the height of the civil war, tens of thousands of children, known as 'night commuters', or 'Gulu Walkers', were forced to flee their homes each evening to avoid abduction by the LRA, and to seek sanctuary in the city of Gulu. Working with Edmonton's Ugandan community, Jamil and a few classmates organized the Gulu Walk Day Edmonton, in order to spread public awareness regarding the plight of the youth in Gulu, and to raise funds for development programs in the region. Drawing large crowds and significant media coverage, the successful initiative inspired Jamil to continue his work with the Ugandan community, and to further explore the realm of international development and advocacy. "As high school students we were taken aback by the capacity we had to share the stories of youth living in a place we hadn't ever visited before," he explains.

As an undergraduate student, Jamil drew assistance from his connections in the Ugandan community to organize a trip to Kampala, where he volunteered for an HIV/AIDS education program at a local hospital. While in Uganda, Dr. Arif Alibhai, the Global Health Coordinator at the University Of Alberta School Of Public Health, arranged for Jamil to visit Kakooga Primary School in ru-

ral Western Uganda. After seeing first-hand the striking disparity between learning resources available to students in rural Uganda and back home in Canada, Jamil was compelled to act as an agent of change, and to engage Canadian youth in the creation of long-term strategies for supporting educational opportunities in rural Uganda.

Back in Edmonton, Jamil worked with young leaders at his former high school to create Learning Beyond Borders (LBB) – an innovative school-to-school partnership program between Canada and Uganda, committed to providing high school students in Edmonton and primary school students in rural Uganda a chance to learn from, support, and befriend one another. As Founder and Chair of LBB, Jamil continues to provide leadership to the students of Old Scona High School, working with them to find new and creative ways of engaging with the youth of Uganda and within their own communities.

Jamil chalks the program's success up to the mentorship he receives from Dr. Alibhai and the bold leadership of students at Old Scona High School. As a team, they have learned the importance of being adaptable, open-minded, and humble as participants in the development process. "Everything we do at LBB is rooted in the intrinsic value of the universal human bond," he explains. "Through our relationship with students in Uganda, we have learned about our connectedness as global citizens, and the duty we have to ensure each other's wellbeing."



“As global citizens, it is our job to help others in overcoming their past struggles, discover their own potential and help others do the same.”

JESSICA GY LUC

related illnesses. “By presenting to the public various research and the medical research on eating disorders,” she explains, “I hope to lower the stigma associated with the mental illness and to educate the community on symptoms and ways to seek help.” Jessica’s work to re-conceptualize and challenge our perception of beauty has also inspired her leadership in organizing the 2014 Fashion Show of All Sizes in Edmonton.

Jessica’s involvement in scientific development of health care is impressively broad. After being awarded a prestigious stipend through the Heritage Youth Research Program, Jessica made her first contribution to the scientific development of health care with a project within the field of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Next, funded this time by the Alberta Cancer Foundation, Jessica completed a research project in the field of Oncology. Finally, funded by the Northern Alberta Clinical Trials and Research Center, Jessica contributed a research project to the field of Cardiac Surgery. Currently, she is continuing her research within the field of Cardiac Surgery, working on her first authored research paper, which she plans to submit to the Journal of Immunology.

Jessica is fully immersed in her community. Outside of her work as the Vice-President of the Heart and Stroke Foundation Student Association or as a fundraiser for various programs benefiting at-risk and homeless youth, Jessica is also a competitive soccer player, a multi-talented musician and dancer. What keeps her motivated? “As global citizens, it is our job to help others in overcoming their past struggles, discover their own potential, and help others do the same.”

AGE: 19

HOMETOWN:
Edmonton, Alberta

ORGANIZATIONS:
Be Your Own
Kind of Beautiful
Student Association
Heart and Stroke
Foundation Student
Association

Big Brothers Big Sisters
Boys and Girls Club
Alberta Youth Volunteers

“Being a global citizen means making your mark on the globe; to make the world better because you lived in it.” The mark that Jessica GY Luc intends to make is seemingly simple: “I want to improve access and quality of health care in order to enhance the well-being of individuals.” Her multi-faceted and comprehensive approach to this goal, however, is anything but simple. At 19 years of age, as a researcher in no less than three distinct scientific fields, and as a leader in public education and engagement, Jessica has already made significant contributions to both scientific and community development.

A student at the University of Alberta, Jessica is a co-founder of the Be Your Own Kind of Beautiful Student Association – an organization that aims to raise awareness about eating disorders, bullying, and mental illness, while creating a new and more inclusive understanding of the concept of beauty. As acting co-president, Jessica is currently organizing and preparing to host the first annual Mental Health Research Symposium at the University of Alberta, which will bring together experts and medical professionals to explore the issues surrounding eating disorders and

“When it comes down to it, global citizenship does not have to be some grand act or endeavour. It is the small everyday things that we do and the way we treat the people around us that really matters.”



JESSIE BRETON

As a resident physician in emergency medicine, Jessie Breton holds a unique perspective on community development: “Working in the ER, I regularly witness the consequences of inequity, injustice, and a grossly underfunded social safety net,” she says. “These experiences are a major motivation for me to be involved in broader issues of social justice.” Thus, pushing far beyond her role as an emergency doctor, Jessie is also a tenacious public health advocate, an educator, a counselor, and a global citizen.

“I believe that health is a basic human right,” says Jessie. “The health of an individual, a family, and a community are strongly influenced by factors such as disparity, discrimination, violence, and disempowerment. To improve health we need to look beyond just hospitals and medicines and focus instead on the broader social determinants of health.” Armed with this attitude, Jessie was elected as Vice President of Global Health for the Canadian Federation of Medical Students, and as President of the Canadian Chapter of the International Federation of Medical Students. She took advantage of these positions to advocate for the reduction of the pharmaceutical industry’s influence on medical education, for the protection of the rights of migrant health care workers, and for expanding the debate on the ethics of international development work.

Jessie passionately advocates for proper health care access for refugees and migrants in Alberta. After volunteering her expertise as a medical professional for the Refugee and Migrant Action Network, Jessie co-founded the Alberta Refugee Care Coalition—an advocacy-based initiative striving to restore essential health care benefits to refugees and refugee claimants in Alberta. “In

just the last few months, three provinces have decided to provide healthcare to their refugee claimants,” she points out. “It is exciting to work on this issue at such a pivotal time, and I hope that Alberta will soon follow their example.”

Jessie is also dedicated to raising public awareness of issues surrounding health and sexual violence. As an experienced Crisis Intervention Counselor with the University of Alberta’s Sexual Assault Center, Jessie recently co-founded ConsentEd – an educational and awareness initiative working towards a world without sexual violence. With a rapidly growing online presence, ConsentEd provides information, resources, and in-person educational presentations for youths on topics of sexual harassment, healthy sexuality, relationship violence, and sexual assault.

Jessie’s progressive efforts to enhance health equity is challenging the way that Albertans understand public health, and her example is an inspiration to young people working in all fields of community development. “We need friends that will ask tough questions, keep us grounded, and make us reevaluate our beliefs and biases.”

AGE: 30

HOMETOWN:
Edmonton, Alberta

ORGANIZATIONS:
Alberta Refugee
Care Coalition
Edmonton Migrant and
Refugee Advocacy Network
ConsentEd
NextUp



“If you believe in something just go for it and you’ll be surprised by the difference you make along the way.”

KIMBERLY MCGOUGH

For Kimberly McGough, environmentalism means much more than preservation. “I have a strong personal connection to the land, and I am very passionate about educating others about its beauty and importance.” With infectious enthusiasm and an incredible foundation of knowledge, Kim aims to help a generation of urban youth reconnect with traditional ways of life, develop a robust sense of identity, and build new relationships with the land.

Hailing from Okotoks, Alberta, Kimberly studied Ecotourism and Outdoor Leadership at Medicine Hat College, during which time her passion for nature was elucidated. Subsequent to the completion of her degree, Kimberly accepted a work placement in Peru, quickly developing a close affinity to the country’s land, culture, and people. Teaming up with a like-minded local, she co-founded Elevation Peru – an ecotourism company that facilitates volunteer placements that emphasize cultural submersion and environmental education. Back in Alberta, Kimberly continues to manage Elevation Peru, as her partners provide tourists with unforgettable adventures through the remote mountains of the highlands in Peru.

Currently, Kimberly works with Ghost River Rediscovery (GRR) – an organization that serves the urban Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal

community, offering traditional and cultural-based leadership programming. Kimberly is the Program Coordinator for the Urban Rediscovery Program, which runs free after school programs and winter camps for urban youth, providing young people with the opportunity to learn about Indigenous culture, to gain leadership skills, and to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Providing opportunities for youth to connect with Elders and diverse communities, GRR programming also aims to enhance intergenerational learning and cross-cultural understanding. Kimberly has also been involved in facilitating a youth employment program, and organizing summer wilderness camps.

Kimberly’s success as an educator, an entrepreneur, and a mentor stems from her ability to combine compassion and wisdom. “Kim’s ecological knowledge of both the Alberta prairie and Rocky Mountains is nothing short of astounding,” explains Métis Elder and GRR partner Sharron Proulx-Turner. Describing her gentle nature and caring disposition, she continues: “Kim creates a bond with the youth in the program that stretches far beyond a working relationship. Dedicated and passionate, she and Ghost River make a tremendous difference in these youths’ lives.”

AGE: 26

HOMETOWN:
Okotoks, Alberta

LIVING IN:
Calgary, Alberta

ORGANIZATIONS:
Ghost River Rediscovery*
Elevation Peru



*ACGC MEMBER ORGANIZATION

“Youth are the foundation of tomorrow, the building blocks of society; in order to ensure success we must evoke the available talents to mould and create empowered, confident youth who maintain a voice to change the world for the better.”

MARIA PATTERSON

Maria Patterson is a passionate defender of human rights in the battle to eradicate poverty, both internationally and within her hometown of Drumheller, Alberta. “Our true greatness as a society lies not only in the size of our infrastructure, wealth of our economy, or reach of business,” she says. “Instead, it lies in the extent to which we are willing to reach out and assist those in need.”

As a high school student, Maria wanted to draw attention to the often-overlooked existence of poverty and struggling low-income families within the small community of Drumheller. She thus took the initiative to create and preside over a Youth Rotary Interact Club with the intent of facilitating volunteer and fundraising campaigns at a community level. Collaborating with the local Salvation Army, the Club has organized a number of successful food drives and fundraising campaigns to assist families in need. The Club has also collaborated with and fundraised for the Morgan Jayne Project—a Drumheller based non-profit that aims to eradicate AIDS in Haiti.

Beyond her community, Maria is interested in furthering the protection of human rights. “Basic human rights and equality are the basis for building and maintaining a peaceful, innovative society,” she says. Maria is particularly interested in the right to primary education as a means of empowerment and economic opportunity. Recently, Maria participated in a month-long volunteer trip to Nyameyekrom, Ghana, where she helped to build a school through Me to We, a Toronto-based social enterprise. Collaborating



with local community members, the project successfully produced a school capable of housing over 150 children.

Back in Drumheller, Maria has dedicated herself to encouraging other youth to engage in community and international development. In addition to offering presentations to other students about her experience in Ghana, Maria is also the Co-Chair of the 2014 Alberta Student Leadership Conference in Drumheller, which provides extensive leadership training to over 600 high school students from around Alberta. In the words of one of her teachers: “Insisting on a just and sustainable future for everyone is not simply a catchy slogan for Maria, but a daily mantra by which she lives.”



MARINA MCLELLAN

AGE: 25

HOMETOWN:
Calgary, Alberta

LIVING IN:
Dushanbe, Tajikistan

ORGANIZATIONS:
The Organization for
Security and Cooperation in
Europe (*office in Tajikistan*)
'Muslimah Rising' Initiative

**“Think.
Speak.
Act. Be
a Global
Citizen.”**

In what can be called a truly global effort, 25-year old Marina McLellan has visited over 30 different countries as a documentary photographer, working to highlight neglected social justice issues and to apply a critical gender lens to peacebuilding and conflict prevention initiatives throughout the world. “In this era of intensified globalization, I bore witness to the launch of the Iraq war from my living room, and later experienced the Arab Spring unfold from Tahrir Square in real time through social media,” she explains. “Early on in life I discovered that I was not isolated from the rights abuses and conflicts occurring the world over, but rather felt intensely connected to the millions of individuals affected by them.”

Marina’s passion for human rights and peace advocacy runs deep. “As the granddaughter of a political refugee who had been swept into the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, I have always found myself influenced by those who courageously stand for social justice.” In 2008, while visiting Croatia, Marina attended an exhibition featuring the work of a number of world-renowned war photographers. Inspired, Marina traveled to a diverse number of countries, documenting life in Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Iran, Chechnya, and Turkey among many others, with a particular focus on the challenges faced by women. Her broad portfolio of photographic, ethnographic, and policy reports from this work explore the interplay between the formal spheres of political decision-making and the informal networks of families and small communities in the regions she has visited.

In 2012, Marina was awarded an Irma Parhad Research Grant to conduct a study in south Kyrgyzstan, examining the gendered nature of recent inter-ethnic violence, and the post-conflict challenges facing minority women. Amidst rising ethnic tensions, Marina integrated herself into affected communities, where she accessed the stories and voices of minority Uzbek women. The project raised awareness of ongoing and reinforced structural violence and intersectional discrimination in the aftermath of the conflict. In her most recent trip to Kyrgyzstan, Marina worked with the Foundation for Tolerance International to develop a project that will empower female religious leaders by providing skills in conflict mediation, and facilitate faith-based peacebuilding efforts.

Today, with extensive experience in conflict-ridden regions and the ability to speak English, French, Hungarian, and Russian, Marina has decided to enter the world of diplomacy and international security. She currently resides in Dushanbe, working with the office in Tajikistan for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Yet as the founder of Muslimah Rising – a Calgary-based initiative and discussion platform which aims to empower women of faith and deconstruct the stereotypes and barriers that obstruct their personal and professional development – Marina continues to inspire the individuals in her community back home to speak out against injustice, stand up for human rights, and to make a difference. “Your voice is like a flame providing light. Don’t ever allow it to be snuffed into darkness.”

“What the world needs now is a movement of active, engaged and committed global citizens to build a better Canada, and a better world.”

BONNAR MÉLANIE-ANNE

In a world characterized by unprecedented human mobility and the mass movement of populations – much of it voluntary, but much of it forced – we find ourselves facing a series of multifarious challenges regarding immigration, integration, and multiculturalism. But it isn’t enough to discuss or complain about the existing status quo, argues Mélanie-Anne Bonnar. “To be a true global citizen, it’s important to raise your voice, and actively find or create opportunities to leverage your passion and interests to impact change.” As an academic studying intercultural conflict abroad, and as a professional and volunteer working to promote the interests and enhance the wellbeing of immigrants, refugees, and minority populations in her home of Calgary, Mélanie-Anne’s efforts express a tenacious desire to actively tackle the complex challenges of our brave new world.

AGE: 29

HOMETOWN:
Calgary, Alberta

ORGANIZATIONS:
*United Nations Association
of Canada, Calgary Branch
Calgary Immigrant
Women’s Association



*ACAC MEMBER ORGANIZATION

With an undergraduate background in International Relations, Mélanie-Anne began her Master’s Degree in Conflict Analysis and Management, specializing in intergroup and intercultural conflict resolution. During this time, Mélanie-Anne also completed an internship with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where she worked with individuals seeking refugee status, spreading their stories and helping to protect their rights. Subsequently, to conduct research for her Master’s thesis, Mélanie-Anne traveled to a remote region in Southern Thailand to interview female peacebuilders working to combat violence caused by an ongoing conflict between Buddhist and Muslim populations.

While she completed her graduate studies, Mélanie-Anne took on a full-time job with the Calgary Immigrant Women’s Association (CIWA)—a



non-profit organization and culturally diverse settlement agency that addresses the unique concerns of immigrant and refugee women, girls, and their families. Providing 5 years of exemplary service to the organization, Mélanie-Anne quickly climbed the ranks from Settlement Counselor to Program Coordinator for the Links to Success Program, which helps young immigrant and refugee mothers develop a long-term career plan for meaningful employment. In her final position with CIWA, she worked as Business Development Coordinator, fostering relationships with Calgary’s corporate community in order to help internationally trained professionals gain entry into the workforce. More recently, Mélanie-Anne began work as a Supplier Diversity Specialist working with TransCanada, where she is currently designing a new program to ensure that diverse and minority-owned businesses have competitive opportunities to bid on contract work for major development projects.

Aside from her professional work, Mélanie-Anne has volunteered with the United Nations Association in Canada, Calgary Branch (UNAC-Calgary) for 2 years, eventually assuming the role of Branch President. The youngest individual to ever hold this position, Mélanie-Anne is a dedicated leader committed to engaging Canadians in the critical work of the United Nations both locally and abroad.



“We are not merely audience to a changing world but the vehicle by which it moves. All of us have the capacity to change ourselves and thus the world.”

MUSTAFA ALI

For Mustafa Ali, community is the key vehicle for social change. Quoting a West African proverb, Mustafa reminds us, “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” With an optimistic orientation toward the future, Mustafa is an effective community leader and volunteer, dedicated particularly to youth issues within Edmonton’s immigrant communities.

Moving from Ottawa to Edmonton as a teenager, Mustafa initially found it difficult to adjust to his new home. Seeking to discover a sense of community, Mustafa teamed up with the Islamic Family and Social Services Association (IFSSA) to create the Somali Edmonton Basketball Association (SEBA) – a program that offers high school students a safe and positive environment for recreation, and space to discuss and explore career and postsecondary opportunities. “It was by giving back, and by getting involved in youth organizations around Edmonton,” he explains, “that I found my place in the broader community, and that I began to feel at home.”

After the creation of SEBA, the floodgates were opened, and Mustafa quickly established himself as an effective community leader. Continuing his partnership with IFSSA, Mustafa has led a number of sports and outdoor camps for local youth, and has participated in initiatives aimed at assisting the homeless. As a student at the University of Alberta, Mustafa was involved in a diverse range of student groups that worked to promote interfaith dialogue and social justice.

In 2010, Mustafa’s leadership abilities were put to the test when he was asked to help organize a conference to address some of the social issues faced by Edmonton’s faith community. Bringing together representatives and leaders from various religious institutions and drawing an audience of over 2000, the conference was an overwhelming success that facilitated dialogue on a variety of important issues from suicide and violence to integration and education.

Mustafa’s efforts also extend beyond his community in Edmonton. “As the notion of border and citizenry collapses in our increasingly globalized world, traditional geopolitical divisions no longer restrict the scope of our activism,” he contends. In 2010, Mustafa worked tirelessly to raise funds for the victims of the Haiti earthquake, and in 2011, for those affected by the drought in East Africa.

In 2013, Mustafa entered civic politics, running an impressive campaign as the youngest candidate for City Council, garnering significant support, and much attention from the media. Currently, Mustafa is working with the Muslim Association of Canada to develop social programming for high school students that will encourage youth engagement in community development.

From newcomer to influential leader citywide, Mustafa’s journey is a remarkable testament to the power of community.

AGE: 24

HOMETOWN:
Ottawa, Ontario

LIVING IN:
Edmonton, Alberta

ORGANIZATIONS:
Islamic Family and Social Services Association
Muslim Association of Canada

“Follow your passions, never be afraid to fail in your endeavours to achieve, and always remember our common humanity and that it comes with the collective responsibility to enhance our communities and better the lives of others.”

OLA MOHAJER

AGE: 25

HOMETOWN:
Calgary, Alberta

LIVING IN:
Harare, Zimbabwe

ORGANIZATIONS:
United Nations
in Zimbabwe
Passages to Canada



Ola Mohajer has a deep passion for serving communities both locally and internationally. Fueled by resolute conviction and the joy she receives from helping and working with others, Ola demonstrates the extent to which a single global citizen can make meaningful change and create a positive and wide-spread impact within her community and on the international stage. She asserts: “our common humanity entails a collective responsibility to enhance our communities and better the lives of others.”

Currently interning with the United Nations in Zimbabwe, Ola works both on the ground and with the highest offices of government as a member of the Resident Coordinator’s Office in Harare. Her position is complex, dynamic, and extremely important. As a strategist and coordinator, Ola is tasked with “enhancing the effective and efficient functioning of the United Nations System at the country level.” As a communicator, she is a liaison between UN agencies and the Zimbabwe government, and is a participant in community outreach endeavours. To top things off, Ola is also involved in monitoring and evaluation, public relations, and in supporting a forward-looking development agenda for Zimbabwe. From visiting townships to communicating with the Office of the President and Cabinet, Ola’s development work spans across a diverse set of issues, including food security, governance, public health, housing, poverty, and HIV/AIDS.

Ola is a public advocate of interfaith dialogue and religious awareness. In addition to giving speeches on Islam and the importance of religious exchange at local churches throughout Calgary, Ola is also the founder and president of The Art of Islam – an organization based in Calgary that showcases and sells the works of a growing community of faith-inspired artists. In order to combat misconceptions regarding Islam and to facilitate interfaith dialogue, Ola created an educational documentary series for non-Muslims titled “Ramadan Reflections.” In 2013, Ola was awarded, as an alumnus, the University of Calgary’s Interfaith Award of Excellence. Ola is also a Youth Ambassador for Passages to Canada, through which she speaks with newcomers to Canada about civic engagement, career opportunities, and the journey to overcome the various challenges of immigration.

Simultaneously a significant member of the world’s foremost multinational political institution and a compassionate community builder in her hometown, Ola is a shining example of a global citizen in 2014.

PEER LITERACY GROUP



“Peer Literacy is great because it has given us an opportunity to help our younger classmates to learn and grow.”

As teachers, mentors, and role models, the teenage girls that make up the Peer Literacy Instructors Team are breaking cultural barriers and changing the face of their communities in the town of Kabala, in the Koinadugu District of Sierra Leone. Supporting primary education and providing important skills to their peers, the Peer Literacy Instructors are agents of empowerment not only for their students, but also themselves: “Since I started the program, I find that me and my friends are more confident in ourselves,” writes 17-year-old Kanko Samura. “We dress better than we used to, we are no longer too shy to speak in public, and we are respected.”

The CAUSE Kids Literacy Program is an innovative partnership between the Canmore-based development organization and 60 girls in Kabala between the ages of 14 and 18. By sponsoring the Peer Literacy Instructors through their high schools, paying for their school fees, textbooks, and uniforms, CAUSE Canada empowers young girls to achieve higher levels of education. In return, the Instructors take on a new role teaching literacy to children and peers within their communities.

During an intensive three-week training program, the Peer Literacy Instructors are taught a comprehensive phonics approach to teaching literacy, with which they mentor young students struggling with their schoolwork. The program also provides the In-

structors with access to a self-learning computer workshop, where the girls can develop important and sought-after computer skills. 17-year-old Victoria FJ Fofona is particularly pleased with this aspect of the program: “Before the program, we did not even know how to turn a computer on, but now we have learned to type, though we are very slow, and how to use Microsoft Word and Microsoft Office.” In addition to teaching literacy, many of the Instructors have also begun to share their knowledge of computers with others in their communities.

“Peer Literacy is great because it has given us an opportunity to help our younger classmates to learn and to grow,” explains Kanko Samura. So far, the Peer Literacy Instructors have helped 2,800 students learn literacy and computer skills. As brave, strong, and dedicated leaders and role models within the broader community, their work has also broken stereotypes and challenged ideas about gender in their culture.

The Peer Literacy Instructors are an empowering example for young girls and women across the region and the world. “When I first started teaching, an older boy provoked me, and did not take me seriously,” recalls 16-year-old Siello Koromo. “A week later, when he saw the other kids learning from the phonics class I was teaching, he changed his behavior... He respects me now.”

AGE: 16-18

HOMETOWN:

Kabala, Sierra Leone

ORGANIZATION:

CAUSE Kids Peer Literacy Program*



*ACGC MEMBER ORGANIZATION

If your ideas have the potential to benefit others, do not be afraid to speak up, for the world will stop and listen to those who stand up for what they believe."

SAMUEL GEISTERFER

AGE: 19

HOMETOWN:

Edmonton, Alberta

LIVING IN:

Calgary, Alberta

ORGANIZATIONS:

Rotary International

*Sombrilla International
Development Society

Society for Educational
Visits and Exchanges
Canada



*ACGC MEMBER
ORGANIZATION



Samuel Geisterfer is a man of action: "Go out and get involved," he suggests, "the opportunities will present themselves." He would know. At just 19 years of age, Samuel has applied his boundless energy to a long and diverse list of community development organizations from Calgary to Juarez, from Alabama to Yurac Yacu.

Samuel was an active leader at Strathcona High School in Edmonton, where he helped to organize an international development fundraising initiative for WaterCan, which raised over \$50,000 for clean water projects in Africa. Upon completion of his final year of high school, Samuel was awarded both the Scarborough Trophy for school and community service, and the Harley-Miller-Sutton Award for athletics.

Following graduation, Samuel has been deeply involved with the Rotaract and Rotary New Generations, and has volunteered with The Hope Mission, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and the Edmonton Food Bank. He is also an active member with the Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges Canada (SEVEC), where he has spent five years on the Youth Advisory Committee. In 2011, Samuel joined a Disaster Response Services trip to Alabama to help rebuild in areas affected by a devastating series of tornados. Later that year, he traveled with SERVE Canada to Juarez, Mexico, where he engaged with local youth on community development projects.

For Samuel, however, global citizenship requires more than ambition and action. "Being a global citizen means comprehending the

impact of your actions, both small and large, on a global scale," he explains. "No matter our race, economic status, or the language we speak, we must ultimately stand alongside one another – no person is worth less than another." Equipped with this attitude, Samuel travelled to Peru with Sombrilla – an Alberta-based organization that develops partnerships with Latin American NGOs working for sustainable development – to take part in the Youth to Youth Tour. Partnered with the Andean Alliance and youth from the small community of Yurac Yacu, Samuel and a group of Albertan youth worked to expand the local community centre, fostering a partnership of mutual understanding and solidarity.

Samuel remains dedicated to the partnership between Sombrilla and the Andean Alliance. He is currently working with a number of Albertan youth to raise funds and organize the development of an expedition services office in Yurac Yacu, through which locals can bypass larger corporate tour agencies to sell their guiding services directly to visiting tourists. In July, Samuel plans to travel to Yurac Yacu to work with community members on the construction of the new office.

Samuel's inspiring and globetrotting leadership in community development stems from confidence and conviction: "Every movement begins with the ideas of a single person. Do not be afraid to speak up, for the world will stop and listen to those who stand up for what they believe."



"Peace is a movement. Working together as a movement we have the ability to promote equality, freedom, and security."

SHELIZA KASSAM

fundraiser and used-eyeglass recycling program that has helped over 2,500 visually impaired individuals across the world.

More recently, Sheliza founded Children's Birthday Miracles (CBM), an extremely successful non-profit organization dedicated to providing hope and empowering less fortunate children on their birthday. Initially based out of the Inn From the Cold family homeless shelter in Calgary, CBM has fundraised over \$65,000 dollars to help over 700 homeless and at-risk children in Canada, and over 350 children abroad, from Peru to Tanzania. In addition to the widespread media attention and the large corporate sponsorships that CBM has garnered, its success also earned Sheliza an invitation to speak at the TEDxYouth Millennium Conference.

Sheliza is also involved in a number of initiatives aimed to encourage youth engagement in community development and philanthropic work. She is a long-time member of the Mayor's Youth Council, where she works to provide a voice for the youth in Calgary, and the current Co-Chair of the ConocoPhillips Youth of Distinction Awards Steering Committee, which recognizes local youth for outstanding community service or leadership. Finally, Sheliza is actively involved in the Southern Alberta chapter of Junior Achievement, an organization that teaches young students about business and entrepreneurship.

Individual accomplishments and successful campaigns aside, Sheliza sees herself as simply a part of something bigger than herself. "Peace is not just a word, and its not just a sign," she argues. "Peace is a movement. Working together as a movement we have the ability to promote equality, freedom, and security."

AGE: 16

HOMETOWN:

Calgary, Alberta

ORGANIZATIONS:

Youth Central

Free the Children

Children's Birthday Miracles

Calgary Mayor's

Youth Council

Junior Achievement

It's not everyday that you meet a teenage philanthropist. At just 16 years of age, Sheliza Kassam is a leader in youth engagement, an entrepreneur, and the founder of a number of non-profit and charity organizations making a big splash locally and around the world. Internationally recognized and the recipient of a number of prestigious awards, Sheliza's humble but resolute dedication to enhancing the welfare of others is raising the bar for youth engagement across Alberta.

Growing up in Calgary, Sheliza was naturally drawn to volunteer work, at her mosque and as a Girl Guide. At the age of 12, in addition to her work with the Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, and other organizations, Sheliza joined Youth Central, which provides youth with volunteer opportunities and facilitates community engagement and active citizenship. Shortly afterwards, she initiated the Sight Night campaign – a

"We can't all be charismatic leaders. What the world needs are people who write letters to their representatives, people who attend meetings at their community centres, people who speak out when outraged."

SPENCER HUCHULAK

AGE: 25

HOMETOWN:
Andrew, Alberta

LIVING IN:
Edmonton, Alberta

ORGANIZATIONS:
*Engineers Without
Borders Canada
*Ceiba Association
Alberta Council for
Global Cooperation



*ACGC MEMBER
ORGANIZATION



Raised in the rural plains of Alberta, Spencer Huchulak understands the limits of community, reminding us that global citizenship requires seeing the world beyond our horizon, and assessing the global impacts of our actions and the actions of our government. "We need to learn to concern ourselves not only with our neighbors across the street, but also our neighbors across the ocean," he points out.

However, growing up with a strong work ethic, a sense of humility, and a close connection to his hometown of Andrew, Alberta, Spencer also understands the strength of community. "More powerful than charity," he argues, "is the idea of empowering people and communities to help themselves." As Co-President of the Edmonton Chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB), Spencer believes that global citizenship begins with awareness, and ends with solidarity.

Spencer is a natural builder. After graduating from the University of Alberta with a degree in Civil Engineering, he quickly found employment in building construction, helping to develop new spaces for businesses and housing in Edmonton and its surrounding areas. His interest in community development was sparked while volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, where he was exposed to the challenges of affordable housing, and was inspired by the stories of recently arrived immigrants seeking to build a new community.

Spencer's interest in development broadened to international work when he joined the University of Alberta Chapter of EWB. After a few years in the work force, Spencer joined EWB's Profession-

al Fellowship Program as a volunteer in Ghana. As a member of the governance team, Spencer spent 4 months providing capacity building workshops to government officials and improving the monitoring of infrastructure projects. Exploring various rural and urban centers throughout Ghana and experiencing international development first hand solidified Spencer's passion for global citizenship, and elucidated his approach to development. "I aim to promote economic empowerment and alleviate gaps in social services," he explains. "By eliminating certain barriers to freedom, such as education, affordable housing, or governance, people can make a better life for themselves and their children."

Upon returning from Ghana, Spencer took the position of Co-President of the Edmonton Chapter of EWB, with which he aims to build a network of young professionals who understand the challenges of development, and who are dedicated to fighting global poverty and inequality. Joining Ceiba Association in the summer of 2013, Spencer has also assumed the role of teacher and mentor. As Team Leader of Ceiba's annual Project Hope Program, Spencer is responsible for preparing 12 university students for a cultural exchange to the Esteli, Nicaragua, where they will repair and expand and overcrowded high school. Spencer also serves on the board of ACGC, adding an important young voice to our coalition.

Spencer's nuanced understanding of the tension between small-scale community development and large-scale globalization creates a foundation for his inspirational role as a leader and global citizen.



"We must realize, regardless of our action (or inaction), we are actively part of the processes that transform the world each and every day."

THARSINI SIVANANTHAJOTHY

Intelligent, charismatic, and compassionate, Tharsini Sivananthajothy is motivated by a vision of a world with accessible and quality primary health care for all. Standing in the way of this vision, however, is a complex web of political, economic, and social processes that create systemic barriers to equitable health access. Yet Tharsini remains optimistic: "If we are able to harness the spirit and energy of each individual, then collectively we can materialize the changes we'd like to see."

As an undergraduate student studying biological sciences at the University of Toronto, Tharsini adopted a significant leadership role on campus, acting simultaneously as the Biological Sciences Director for the Students' Union, and the Undergraduate Student Governor for the University's Governing Council. In both positions, she advocated for improved student services on campus and for further student representation in the University's governance. Later, she was acting Chair of the Editorial Committee for a special, peer-reviewed undergraduate monograph titled RAD: Critical Voices on Equity in Health and Development.

After her undergraduate degree, Tharsini shifted her focus from the 'hard sciences' to international development, with particular emphasis on international health. Currently working on her Masters of Science with the Global Health Program at the University of Alberta, she is involved in number of public health projects, both on campus and overseas. Recently, with the help of like-minded colleagues, Tharsini

initiated the Jericho Project—a mental health strategy that aims to create a culture of mentorship and foster dialogue between students, staff, and faculty, with the intent of reducing unnecessary stress and mental strain on and around campus. Moreover, Tharsini is an Executive Member of the Steering Committee for the Student Health Initiatives for the Needs of Edmonton (SHINE), which seeks to improve the health and wellbeing of underserved youth in Edmonton's inner city.

Tharsini is also involved with Students for International Development (SID) – a student-led, volunteer-based organization that seeks to mobilize action against global poverty in developing countries. In 2012, working as a Research Associate for SID, Tharsini was part of a sustainable deworming initiative in Western Province, Kenya, seeking to eradicate a neglected disease that debilitates children early in their life. Traveling to Western Province, Tharsini worked with various community stakeholders and health care workers during the implementation and evaluation of the project. Tharsini is currently continuing her work with SID as the Kenya Coordinator, an executive role in support of the organization's various sustainable development projects and community capacity building initiatives in the region.

Unwavering in her battle waged against global health inequity, Tharsini is always looking for new allies: "You will face resistance [working for sustainable change], and some may consider your ideas radical, or even impossible. But you will also find like-minded people along your journey, who will lend you a hand and feed the fire in you, pushing you to continue forward on your journey."

AGE: 23

HOMETOWN:
Toronto, Ontario

LIVING IN:
Edmonton, Alberta

ORGANIZATION:
Students for International
Development

TRISTAN TURNER

AGE: 16

HOMETOWN:

Morinville, Alberta

ORGANIZATIONS:

Morinville Youth
Rotary Interact Club

New Democratic
Youth of Alberta



"A global citizen doesn't see borders or flags, they see people. It's about erasing what makes other groups 'them', and instead seeing all human beings as a part of 'us'."

16-year-old Tristan Turner has a firm belief in the inevitable advancement of humanity towards a single and united people. However, he also believes that apathy, political mistrust, and dysfunctional democracy stand between today and a just, sustainable, and equitable future. "Volunteerism and community engagement are essential," he admits, "but ultimately the greatest way to effect change in our country is to become involved in the political process."

Born and raised in the small town of Morinville, Alberta, Tristan got an early start in the political scene. At 14, he was elected as the Federal Youth Liaison for the New Democratic Youth of Alberta, using his position to encourage political and apolitical civic engagement amongst the youth of his community. Tristan also supports peaceful public action and discourse. In 2012, Tristan organized two successful public rallies in St. Albert in protest of a controversial federal bill, attracting media coverage and facilitating subsequent public dialogue.

Tristan is also a columnist for The Morinville News, contributing two articles a month on youth issues within federal and provincial politics in a column titled Progressive Views. In 2013, Tristan worked in conjunction with the New Democratic Youth of Alberta in the

development of The Catalyst – a magazine that seeks to provide space for the political views of the youth of Alberta, and to directly engage this audience in the political process. The second edition of The Catalyst will be released in February 2014.

Outside of the political process, Tristan is also the founder and President of the local Morinville Interact Club/ Youth Rotary. With emphasis on the importance of youth engagement, the club aims to facilitate community development both at home and abroad. Though still in its infancy, Tristan is confident in the club's potential: "Over the next few years we'll make our mark in our community by providing a place for young people that is open, compassionate and productive."

Tristan's unwavering dedication to political engagement is motivated and guided by his conception of global citizenship. "To be a global citizen is to have unyielding compassion for each other and understanding that we should embrace our commonalities more than our differences. A global citizen doesn't see borders or flags; they see people."

"My greatest desire is to build inclusive communities where youth of all backgrounds will feel safe and confident to grow and reach their greatest potentials."



VIVIAN GIANG

AGE: 30

HOMETOWN:
Edmonton, Alberta

ORGANIZATION:
United Nations
Association of Canada,
Edmonton Branch*



*ACGC MEMBER
ORGANIZATION

As the Alberta Project Officer for the United Nations Association in Canada's Multi-media & Multiculturalism (M&M) Programme, Vivian Giang is determined to reverse the media's negative and stereotypical portrayal and coverage of ethno-cultural and Aboriginal communities across Alberta. Her work undermines discrimination, promotes human rights, and creates a stronger and more socially cohesive multicultural Canada. "My greatest desire is to build inclusive communities where youth of all backgrounds will feel safe and confident to grow and reach their greatest potentials," she says.

Vivian studied communication and media at Grant MacEwan, as well as Ludwig Maximilians University in Germany, before completing her Masters in Professional Communication at Royal Roads University in Victoria. After a stint working as Communications Editor at the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan, Vivian returned to Alberta, where she began her work with the M&M Programme. In her capacity as Alberta Project Officer, Vivian engages youth in media projects and collaborates with media agencies, post-secondary institutions, and ethno-cultural and Aboriginal communities to create media that is free from stereotypes, racism, and other forms of discrimination.

With a presence throughout Alberta, Vivian has worked through M&M to initiate a number of innovative projects that facilitate inclusive representation of communi-

ties in media. In Edmonton, she partnered with mainstream and independent media outlets to establish a summer internship program, which challenges Albertan youth studying media and journalism to produce media stories that will showcase Alberta's diversity and highlight underrepresented populations, in order to develop a 'new mainstream' that is inclusive and non-discriminatory. In 2013, Vivian organized and facilitated a number of workshops throughout Edmonton that convened community members and students of all ages to critically examine racism and discrimination in the media. Vivian has also spoken publicly at a number of events on the importance of community inclusivity, including the Wood Buffalo's Diversity Summit, Mighty Peace Day, and the 2013 Young Peace Builders camp hosted by the John Humphrey Center for Peace and Human Rights.

Vivian's engaging leadership was further showcased during Human Rights Week at the University of Alberta, when she collaborated with the University's Office of Safe Disclosure and Human Rights in organizing the #breakingstereotypes photo contest and workshop, which encouraged students to reflect on the stereotypes that they encounter, and to use photography and social media to challenge and undermine them. An instant hit, the contest provoked an important public dialogue regarding personal and societal attitudes regarding racism, sexual orientation, physical disabilities and mental illness, on campus and beyond.

Vivian's extraordinary work is an important reminder that diversity is not something we ought to ignore or overcome, but something we ought to celebrate.



MARC HUOT

AGE: 29

ORGANIZATION: ConsentEd

An ardent advocate for the prevention of sexual violence, Marc Huot is also a role model, teaching other men how to be allies and supporters in the movement for gender equity. “As a society, we deserve to live in a world where our lives are not defined by sexual violence. To get there will require all of us to contribute a conscious effort to shift our behaviors in our every day lives,” he explains.

With five years of volunteer experience as a counselor for the University of Alberta Sexual Assault Centre, Marc is a co-founder of ConsentEd—an organization and online resource that strives to build a world without sexual violence by building public awareness and reshaping the way we think about consent. Professionally, Marc has worked for the Pembina Institute as an oil sands policy analyst, and serves as a Senior Policy Advisor in energy efficiency and climate change for the Alberta Government.



NICOLE ELLIOT

AGE: 16

ORGANIZATION: CAWST*

16-year old Nicole Elliot is pushing to change the way we think about international development. “I am primarily interested in sustainable development,” she explains, “assisting communities and governments in developing nations to establish long-term solutions to economic and humanitarian issues, without the need for ‘band-aid’ foreign aid solutions.”

Nicole is currently involved with the Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST)—a Calgary-based organization that provides training and materials to educate individuals and communities in developing nations about the importance of clean water, hygiene, and improved facilities. Using her creative skills, Nicole started the Creations4CleanWater Initiative, selling handmade clothing items to raise funds for CAWST within her local community. Currently partnered with CAWST’s Wavemakers program, Nicole is working with her church youth group on a project that aims to educate the public about water and energy waste, while providing practical solutions, including rain barrels and natural cleaning products.



JUSTIN NSHIMIRIMANA

AGE: 23

ORGANIZATION: Sinkunia Community Development Organization*

“As a world citizen, I am constantly trying to determine what role I can play in my community, my country, and ultimately the world,” explains Justin Nshimirimana. Justin is a volunteer and board member with Sinkunia Community Development Organization (SCDO), which supports the settlement and integration of African immigrant youth and families into Edmonton. With a particular interest in improving the access and quality of primary education, Justin is a youth mentor, helping new students adjust to their community. Justin also raises funds to support SCDO’s development work internationally. “Community development is very rewarding,” he states. “It has changed my life, and continues changing it.”



*ACGC MEMBER ORGANIZATION



*ACGC MEMBER ORGANIZATION

Do you know a young global citizen who deserves to have their work recognized as an **Alberta Top 30 Under 30?**

Follow ACGC on facebook or twitter to get updates and learn how to nominate someone for 2015!

You can also sign up to receive our e-bulletin (fresh news every two weeks)—just visit our website at **acgc.ca** and click the button at the top of the page that says **“subscribe to our e-bulletin.”**

Thanks to all the 2014 Top 30 Under 30 participants, and to their nominators. The work you do serves as an inspiration to all!

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Interested in getting involved? Reaching out to an **ACGC Member Organization** is a great way to start. With members working around the world on all kinds of different issues, someone is bound to be working in an area or on an issue you care about. Many of our members also have **Twitter** and **Facebook** pages!



ACTION INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES (ACTION)
www.actioninternational.org



CANADA WORLD YOUTH (CWY)
www.canadaworldyouth.org



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www.ainembabazi.org



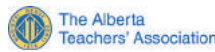
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR PARTICIPATORY DEVELOPMENT (CAPD)
www.capdcalgary.org



ALBERTA PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP (APIRG)
www.apirg.org



CANADIAN CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE (DEVELOPMENT & PEACE)
www.devpc.org



ALBERTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION (ATA)
www.teachers.ab.ca



ALTAMAS FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
www.altamas.ca



CANADIAN DEPARTMENT OF PEACE INITIATIVE (CDPI EDMONTON CHAPTER)
www.cdpiedmonton.ca



BRIDGES OF HOPE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF DEV AGENCIES INC.
www.bridgesofhope.ca



CANADIAN HUMANITARIAN
www.canadianhumanitarian.com



CALGARY BOARD OF EDUCATION GLOBAL LEARNING PROGRAM (CBE INTERNATIONAL)
www.cbeinternational.ca



CANADIAN MORAVIAN MISSION SOCIETY
www.moravian.ca



CANADIAN PEACEMAKERS INTERNATIONAL (CPI)
www.cpi-cpf.ca

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www.cw4wafghan.ca



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www.covenantint.org



**CANADIANS REACHING OUT
TO THE WORLD'S CHILDREN
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**ENGINEERS WITHOUT
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www.ewb.ca



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CEIBA ASSOCIATION
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CHILDREN ASSOCIATION**
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KEISKAMMA CANADA FOUNDATION (KCF)
www.keiskamacanada.com



LIGHT UP THE WORLD (LUTW)
www.lutw.org



MAHARASHTRA SEVA SAMITI ORGANIZATION (MSSO)
www.mssoonline.org



MAHATMA GANDHI CANADIAN FOUNDATION FOR WORLD PEACE
www.gandhifoundation.ca



MARDA LOOP JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL (MLJFF)
www.justicefilmfestival.ca



MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ALBERTA (MCCA)
alberta.mcc.org



MICAH CENTRE (KINGS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE)
www.micahcentre.ca



MINKHA KNITTER'S CO-COPERATION
www.minkhasweaters.com



MISSION OF MERCY (MOM CANADA)
www.missionofmercy.ca



ONE CHILD'S VILLAGE (OCV)
www.onechildsvillage.org



ONE! INTERNATIONAL POVERTY RELIEF
www.one-international.com



OPERATION EYESIGHT CANADA (OE)
www.operationeyesight.com



OPTOMETRY GIVING SIGHT
www.givingsight.org



OXFAM CANADA
www.oxfam.ca



RAINBOW FOR THE FUTURE (RFTF)
www.rainbowfff.org



RAINBOW OF HOPE FOR CHILDREN (ROHFC)
www.rainbowofhopeforchildren.ca

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RESULTS
www.resultscanada.ca



ROTARY CLUB OF EDMONTON (DOWNTOWN)
www.clubrunner.ca/portal/home.aspx?cid=447



SAHAKARINI INTER-WORLD EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
www.sahakarini.org



SAMARITAN'S PURSE CANADA (SPC)
www.samaritanspurse.ca



SHASTRI INDO-CANADIAN INSTITUTE
www.sici.org



SINKUNIA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (SCDO)
www.sinkuniacommunity.org



SOMALI-CANADIAN EDUCATION & RURAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (SCERDO)
www.scerdo.org



SOMBRILLA INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY
www.sombrilla.ca



STOP TB CANADA
www.stoptb.ca



STUDENT UMBRELLA FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (SUSJ)
https://alberta.collegiatelink.net/organization/susj



TRICKSTER THEATRE
www.trickstertheatre.com



TRUE VISION GHANA (TVG)
www.truevisionghana.org



UNISPHERE GLOBAL RESEARCH CENTRE
nonprofit.memlane.com/unisphere



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION IN CANADA (UNAC)
calgary.unac.org or edmonton.unac.org



WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION (WEIF)
www.weif.org



WORLD FIT FOR CHILDREN: ALBERTA CHAPTER (WFFC)
www.wffcalberta.com

