



ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE pour les NATIONS UNIES

L I A I S O N

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION in CANADA

UNA-Canada Newsletter - Volume 6, Issue 4, December 2002

Items included in this Issue:

1. Message from the Executive Director – Report on the 2002 AGM
2. Youth Agenda 2002 Wraps Up
3. Global Peace Games 2002
4. Assessing the *2002 Human Development Report*
5. UNA-Canada loses three champions

1. Message from the Executive Director – Report on the 2002 AGM

From the 19th to the 22nd of September, UNA-Canada members from across the country gathered at the Aristocrat Suites Hotel in Ottawa for the Association's 2002 Annual General Meeting. All 14 UNA-Canada branches were represented at the AGM, with many of the delegates being able to attend the pre-AGM seminar on the 2002 UNDP Human Development Report, held during the day on Thursday, September 19th.

The delegates participated in a series of workshops which focused on both programmatic and administrative issues. The first workshop dealt with a new draft By-Law for UNA-Canada, a document which proposed to alter the decision-making structure of the organization. There was a healthy debate over some of the provisions in the draft document, specifically relating to voting membership and board composition. At the end of the workshop, it was determined that a second draft would be presented to members at the 2003 AGM after a period of further consultation.

On the programmatic side, the Friday afternoon workshop focused on an examination of the 2003 Programme of Work for the Association. The Programme of Work outlines the broad themes under which UNA-Canada carries out its work, along with specific annual strategic foci. The on-going foci of the Association continue to be the engagement of children and youth, Branch support and Association membership, building strong partnerships and strengthening the organization. For 2003, the specific strategic foci are the International Year of Freshwater, Building towards UN/60 (2005) and following-up on the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

During two workshops on the Saturday and Sunday of the AGM, the staff team at the National Office had the opportunity to present their work and projects to the Branch members and the Branches, in turn, had the opportunity to present their past and future activities to the staff and other Branches. These information-sharing and relationship-building workshops succeeded in generating much enthusiasm for the quality of work undertaken by the Association across the country.

At the business meeting on Saturday morning, the members approved the 2001 financial statements, appointed the auditors for 2003 and elected a new Board of Directors. Geoffrey Pearson completed his term as President of the Association, and Nancy Gordon, former National Vice-President, was elected as the new President. Ms



Gordon first became involved in UNA-Canada in the 1970s, as a board member of a branch which then existed in Brandon, Manitoba. She later worked for the National Office in Ottawa as the Executive Director (for a short interim period) and, later, as an Information Officer and as the Executive Director. She currently works as the Senior Vice President with CARE Canada. For a complete list of Board members, please visit our website at www.unac.org/en/about_us/board/index.asp or contact Joan Broughton at the National Office.

We were delighted to host the Honourable Bill Graham, Minister of Foreign Affairs, as the Guest of Honour at our AGM reception on Friday evening. Along with recognizing the contributions made by Geoffrey Pearson to the Association, Minister Graham also gave a frank presentation on Canada's foreign policy and presented the Association with a cheque in support of the 2003 Canadian International Model United Nations Conference (March, 2003).

All in all, the 2002 AGM was a great success and excellent opportunity for members to connect and help chart the future course of UNA-Canada. The next AGM is scheduled to take place from June 13-15, 2003, at a location yet to be determined.

Steve Mason
Executive Director

2. Youth Agenda 2002 wraps up

Months have gone by since the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), but young people have been taking a close look at its outcomes and determining their next steps. As part of the Youth Agenda project, UNA-Canada organized a workshop called *Let's Get Cracking!* The Youth Summit Team shared their experiences of the WSSD and discussed ways youth could work together to build upon the Summit's Plan of Implementation. Here are some insightful comments from the team:

The Plan of Implementation started with such a strong and relevant mandate – that of timelines, targets, new financing, and implementation. I think that the section of the implementation document dealing with institutional frameworks for environmental governance (Chapter 10) is quite exciting – in a ‘watching paint dry’ kind of way. This negotiation was fascinating (if slow), and I think that the resulting text offers much potential to help international governments to deal with sustainable development governance in a much more effective way than the WSSD was able to. This process was a long-term investment in the future of international sustainable development negotiations and initiated an interesting and vitally important dialogue that will hopefully continue in to the future. ~ Lindsay Cole

I think there is hope for progress in the sections of the text that reflect items pushed by youth at Preparatory Meetings, such as support for local youth councils and for sustainable development education. That it is in the Plan of Implementation of course means little; but at least we can use it as impetus for future youth initiative in Canada. ~ Clarisse Kehler-Siebert

A more personal victory would be the presentation of the Indigenous youth-to-youth project alongside many other Indigenous youth from around the world, and the application of the Indigenous youth voice gathered throughout this project, in all my lobbying efforts. The opportunity to meet, work with, and learn from the Indigenous Caucus, particularly the youth, was definitely a beautiful “pearl” for me. These linkages of mutual support will last long into the future. I felt especially honoured to meet the Indigenous



Khoisan People of South Africa, and acknowledge the ancestors on their ancient homeland. ~ Katsitsaronkwas Jacobs

The Youth Agenda 2002 is winding down to a close. The multitude of outcomes and resources that the project has generated has necessitated the creation of a permanent Youth and Sustainable Development section to UNA-Canada's website. There you will find the *Expedition Guide to Youth Agenda 2002*, which is an adventuresome account of the accomplishments and challenges of youth working together on sustainable development through the course of the project. The website will also host the much-awaited resource *Navigating International Meetings: A Pocketbook Guide to Effective Youth Participation*. The pocketbook guide will be available in English, French and Spanish and will serve as an international tool for youth.

We are sad to see the departure of Claudia Oceau, who has worked at UNA-Canada as manager of the sustainable development programme for the past 3½ years. Julie Larsen, the project officer, will remain on staff working on issues related to freshwater, the UNEP National Committee and the remaining Youth Agenda follow-up. For more information, please contact Julie Larsen at julie@unac.org, or visit www.unac.org/youth_sd

3. Global Peace Games for Children and Youth 2002

For the second year the United Nations Association in Canada (UNA-Canada) and the Canadian Soccer Association (CSA) partnered to bring the 2002 Global Peace Games for Children and Youth to Canada. The Games took place around the world in 32 countries during September and October, to celebrate the United Nations International Day of Peace, designated for September 21st. The Games will be played every year until 2010, when the UN International Decade for Peace and Nonviolence (2001-2010) comes to an end.

In Canada Games were played between October 10 and 14, in the context of the Canadian Soccer Association's National Club Championships in Kelowna, BC (under 14 girls and boys), Calgary, AB (approximately 240 Boys and Girls in the under 18 group from six provinces and one territory (Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, PEI, Quebec and the Yukon) and Vaughn ON.

The games provide an opportunity for children and youth to show leadership, commitment and personal involvement in support of the ideals of global friendship, and to demonstrate the values that they learn and practice on the field and in daily life. At the end of the soccer match, as they shake hands with the opposing team, instead of the usual "good game" exchange they say "peace is in our hands". They also commit to the principles of peace by signing the UN's Manifesto for Peace (www.unac.org/en/projects/peace/manifesto.asp) – with the collected signatures from youth around the world (including from participants in Kelowna and Calgary) all sent to the UN Secretariat. In his 2002 letter to participants Kofi Annan reflected that "a well-organized match is a study in competition and, at the same time, a fine example of cooperation, respect for one another and for the rules. Indeed, cooperation, respect for one another and for the rules and norms of the community are essential at all levels of human activity, from the local to the global".

4. Assessing the 2002 Human Development Report

On Thursday, 19 September 2002, the United Nations Association in Canada and Rights and Democracy co-hosted a day-long public seminar on the 2002 UNDP Human Development Report, *Deepening democracy in a fragmented world*.



Over 100 people from the government, academia, civil society, and the general public attended the seminar, which took place in the National Library of Canada. Aside from contributing to the dissemination of the *2002 Human Development Report* and discussion around its content, the seminar also created an opportunity to discuss different Canadian policy perspectives in support of the democratization agenda, provided a space for public education on the work of the UN and on the current challenges to the promotion of democracy and development, and engaged Canadian actors and policies in the issues raised by the Report.

A summary report of the proceedings of the seminar, intended to provoke policy recommendations and to identify areas for further research and deliberation, is available from the national office (contact Joan Broughton at joan@unac.org or 613-232-5751 ext 230). It will also be posted on our web site (www.unac.org).

5.UNA-Canada loses three champions.

UNA-Canada joined many friends and family in mourning the loss of three individuals for whom both this Association and the broader UN and global community were central components of their lives.

Angus Archer, former Executive Director of the Association, died last July in Ottawa. Throughout his life he was a tireless supporter of the UN and of the importance of a strong role for civil society in international relations. He believed profoundly in the opening words of the UN Charter – “We the peoples of the United Nations...” – and devoted most of his working days to creating opportunities to foster links between the UN system, individual citizens and their organizations, and business leaders. He was particularly committed to engaging youth in the pursuit of his vision. As the first CEO of the Canadian Council for International Cooperation, the founding Head of the UN’s Non-Governmental Liaison Service in New York, and as Executive Director of UNA-Canada, he devoted his career to the principles of responsible and participatory international development.

In recognition of this life of international service, and in order to commemorate a remarkable man and a remarkable career, the Association is establishing the Angus Archer Memorial Fund to provide an endowment which will enable young Canadians to discover the challenges and rewards of a career in international development. For further information on this initiative you can contact Lynn Broughton (lynn@unac.org).

The Association also lost two special members this fall – both of whom had been recognized for their contributions to the educational and community work of UNA-Canada through Honourary Life Membership. Both **Herbert Pottle** and **Bertha Lawrence** had been key activists in their respective branches (National Capital Region and Edmonton) for many years. While neither had been active in recent years there is still a profound sense of loss in their passing.

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• **Charitable Registration Number:** 11927-6855 RR0001

This Newsletter is available on UNA-Canada’s web site located at <http://www.unac.org>