

In Haiti, from left to right, are: François Gérin-Lajoie, President/Director General of Fondation Paul Gérin-Lajoie (FPGL), Paul van der Wel, CEO President & CEO; Paul Gérin-Lajoie, Founder and Board Chair, FPGL; and Léonel Garnier, VCP Coordinator in Haiti.



## Mission to Haiti was a learning experience for CEO

By Paul van der Wel, CEO President & CEO

**C**ESO has been working in Haiti for the last 20 years. Most recently, it has joined forces with CECI (Centre canadien d'étude et de coopération internationale), WUSC (World University Service of Canada), and FPGL (Fondation Paul Gérin-Lajoie) on a bilateral program for governance development called Volunteer Cooperation Program (VCP).

The CIDA-funded partnership consortium involves an agreement totalling \$7.6 million over three years, from 2005 to 2008, and each of the organizations is responsible for work in specific niche sectors, as follows:

- ❑ CECI - Civil society and project coordination;
- ❑ FPGL - Elementary education in rural areas;
- ❑ WUSC - College and university education;

- ❑ CESO - Private sector and public administration.

To promote our role in this program and strengthen our relationship with the Haitian partners, I participated in a mission with Paul and François Gérin-Lajoie of FPGL. The executive directors of our other two partners, CECI and WUSC, participated in such a mission six months ago.

The objective of the current mission was twofold: 1) to strengthen the relationship with the Haitian partners and clients and 2) to explore new projects for CESO which would form a base for an extension of the present bilateral agreement with CIDA.

Many meetings were held with key stakeholders in this project such as the Haitian President and Prime Minister, Haitian ministers, three directors general, the Canadian Ambassador in Haiti, four partners from the private sector, and staff

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## Calling all CESO Volunteer Advisers: We need your e-mail addresses

**C**ESO is moving forward with the task of switching our Roster database information from the old Powerhouse software to the new Oracle platform.

At this stage, we need your e-mail addresses. We have e-mail addresses for almost 80 per cent of our Volunteer Advisers (VAs), but we need to reach 100 per cent by the end of this calendar year.

Also, some of the addresses we have are out-of-date or incorrect. Don't delay. Send your e-mail address to: [volunteers.toronto@cesosaco.com](mailto:volunteers.toronto@cesosaco.com). ■



# A governance mandate in Haiti

By VA Guy Bédard

**A**s a new CESO Volunteer Adviser (VA) in 2005, I was sent on my first international cooperation assignment to Haiti in 2006. It was part of the Volunteer Cooperation Program (VCP), a consortium of four organizations, including CESO.



Mr. Guy Bédard (third from left) with a group of MPCE technicians.

A country that has had its share of unrest over the last decades, Haiti has undertaken slow steps toward the establishment of a democracy and toward a climate that is more favourable to social and economic development.

My loved ones were worried to see me leave for a country where the international press was reporting a difficult situation in terms of personal safety. However, the safety procedures that were put forth by CESO and the other partners in the VCP consortium directed towards we cooperants, as well as my willingness to bring a positive contribution to the future of Haitians, reassured them.

My assignment with the Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation (*Ministère de la Planification et de la Coopération externe : MPCE*), aimed at strengthening the institutional

capacities of the ministry, took place at two different times (November 2006 and March 2007).

The incorporation act of the MPCE dates back to 1984. As its name indicates, the ministry is responsible for the planning of the country's social and economic development as well as the coordination of external cooperation. In the course of its history, the MPCE has played different roles, ranging from being a nerve centre focused on the planning and implementation of the country's social and economic development plan, to that of an almost ineffective structure owing to a strong centralization around the office of the President of

the Republic. This situation left its mark on the executives and the employees of the ministry as well as on the policies and systems related to planning, management, verification and evaluation.

My assignment was to support the Evaluation and Verification Department (*Direction d'évaluation et de contrôle : DCE*) and the Pre-Investment Unit (*Unité de pré-investissement : UPI*) with capacity building related to the development of public investment projects and budgets. During my first stint, I collected a lot of information from the many executives of the ministry. This enabled me to learn more of the mandate, mission, strategic and operational objectives, organizational structure, formal and informal systems, procedures and ways of doing things. This stage also helped define the second part of my mandate earlier this year, in which I focused on

about fifteen technicians (analysts) of the Pre-Investment Unit and the Evaluation and Verification Department and their managers. This was done with the prospect of strengthening the capacities surrounding the development, analysis, follow-up, verification and evaluation of the infrastructure projects funded in the context of the Public Investment Program (*Programme d'investissements publics : PIP*).

As a former executive of Canada's Public Service, I was first struck by the employees of the Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation's lack of basic materials and financial means to develop and implement the government's policies, plans and programs. I then noticed the staff's commitment and willingness to do what it takes so that the ministry produces and implements a plan that is conducive to the country's economic and social development, despite the difficult work conditions. Finally, I observed that even if processes and procedures are in place for the management of the Public Investment Program, the informal processes and procedures are still the employees' daily lot, for lack of having modernized or adapted those that were developed during the ministry's first years of existence.

The assignment ended with me offering my support in the development of a capacity building action plan as well as a UPI and DEC team building action plan. A public investment project evaluation grid for the Pre-Investment Unit's team was developed as well as a training session related to the preparation of a project analysis report, etc. I

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## Mission to Haiti

*continued from page 1*

and volunteers representing CESO and the other partners.

The seven-day mission to Haiti was well organized by Léonel Garnier, the VCP Coordinator based in Haiti, with input from Madeleine Valentine, the CESO Country Representative and Carole Martin, CESO New Business Development Director responsible for Haiti.

Our first meeting was with the Haitian President, René Garcia Prével, and Haitian Prime Minister, Jacques-Edouard Alexis, at the Presidential Palace. Mr. Prével's government was democratically elected two years ago, the first such accomplishment in 200 years. We were honoured to be accompanied by the Canadian Ambassador, Mr. Claude Boucher. The President and the Prime Minister are very supportive of our work and we had wide-ranging open discussions. The President explained that the government's priorities are:

1. Restore law and order, and reduce gang influence, drug trading and corruption
2. Increase government revenue
3. Improve infrastructure
4. Develop the tourist industry
5. Develop agriculture

Health and education are not top priorities for the government at



Paul van der Wel with Madeleine Valentine, CESO's Country Representative in Haiti.

present even though Haiti is the poorest country in the Western hemisphere with the highest level of maternal mortality. The President relies on non-profit and religious organizations to help the poor. During our meeting, we learned that there is no formal education system and the majority of the schools are private and frequently funded by missionaries or not-for-profit organizations.

There is an enormous amount of work to be done. The biggest shortcoming of previous development aid programs was that they were not sustainable. The Canadian government has committed \$500 million in aid over five years for Haiti, which is second only to Afghanistan as the largest receiver of aid.

As mentioned, CESO's work is with the private sector and public administration in Haiti. As such, my schedule included meetings with the Directors General of four Haitian Ministries: Planning and International Cooperation; Commerce and Industry; Education; and Tourism. Discussions about future work were also held with partners from the private sector.

All of the above meetings took place in Port-au-Prince. We also spent one day in Jacmel where we visited two partners, the Chamber of Commerce and the Regional Office of the Ministry of Planning. Two volunteers were present, Jean-Paul Ferland who is developing a strategic plan for the Chamber, and France Deschesnes who is working with a client on organizational planning.

I noted that CESO volunteers are greatly appreciated by our clients and in turn, the volunteers feel that their work is rewarding.

Our mission to Haiti was a learning experience about working with a consortium of Canadian organizations. It became

clear that we are more effective working together than as individual organizations.

Security is an issue but we have been able to provide safe housing and transportation for CESO staff and volunteers. Many volunteers return for second assignments because of the need, and the gratitude and respect they receive from their clients.

We cannot solve the structural problems in Haiti but we can build capacity and make life better for many Haitians. CESO does real development work in Haiti. Our assistance is very much needed and appreciated.

During the discussion with the Haitian partners, many new projects were discussed and it is likely our development work in Haiti will be needed for at least the next five years.

I want to thank CESO volunteers and staff who have made this project successful in its first stage and for helping to build a solid base for future CESO assignments in Haiti. ■

## A governance mandate

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was also able to share with the various managers my observations on the running of their respective teams and made suggestions on improvements within the two departments.

When all is said and done, my first experience in Haiti as a CESO Volunteer Adviser was stimulating at the professional level, but also very rich at the personal level thanks to the many encounters I had with people that were welcoming, warm, open and ready to make an effort. ■

*Guy Bédard, from Montreal, Quebec, has completed two assignments in Haiti. He will travel to Cameroon this fall to help develop an economic plan.*

# Getting to know the people was the best part of my Philippine assignment

**By Aeroplan employee and CESO VA Luise Turner**

I've always been fascinated with other cultures and enjoy volunteer work, so when I had the opportunity to go on an assignment as a CESO Volunteer Adviser (VA) I jumped at the chance.

I first learned about CESO while working at Aeroplan which allows its members to donate miles to various charitable organizations, including CESO. In an effort to engage its employees and to further develop ties with these charities, Aeroplan offers various volunteer opportunities.

In June of 2006, an offer to volunteer with CESO arose. Aeroplan employees who were interested in applying were asked to write a 250-word essay on why they would like to participate. I found out about it on the closing date - took pen to paper that evening and sent it to Alden Hadwen, who is in charge of Corporate Reputation at Aeroplan. Several weeks later I got a phone

call from Alden to advise CESO had selected me to participate.

I attended an informational session in September and got an interview the following month. Once I officially became a VA, we were just waiting for the right assignment to come along.

In March of 2007, I was assigned to a job in the Philippines. I would be joining another VA, Ron Wells, working with the Hotel and Resort Operators of Sorsogon to improve hotel operations. My job was to take on the Customer Service component and prepare material and handouts for training.

In addition, I flew to Halifax in April for a three-day CIDA-funded and sponsored workshop on Intercultural Effectiveness.

Ron and I first met when we both arrived in Manila. We flew to the city of Legaspi and then drove to Sorsogon city to meet the clients and prepare a work plan.



Pictured from left to right are Matt Navalta, CESO Country Representatives in the Philippines; Leah Pagao, Provincial Director of the Department of Trade and Industry; and VAs Luise Turner and Ron Wells.

Sorsogon province lies on the southern tip of Luzon Island and hasn't had many tourists come its way. With the discovery of the Whale Shark, the world's largest living fish, and realization that they have much to offer potential tourists, they are trying to improve their services and bring them up to international standards.

Ron and I were assigned to work with four hotels as well as the Department of Trade and Industry. Everyone was very welcoming and grateful for the assistance being provided by CESO. I spent a couple of days at each hotel and provided customer service training to the staff. Afterwards, I conducted a three-part Customer Service workshop on behalf of the Department of Trade and Industry.

One of the key pieces of advice that I received about working in another culture was to be flexible and adaptable. I took that to heart and it helped me to do a better job. For me, the best thing about being a VA on this assignment was getting to know the people; I think it's the best possible way to travel.

Being given the opportunity to transfer my knowledge to help improve livelihoods is very fulfilling. I've made some good friends and hope to return one day to visit them. ■



VA Luise Turner provided customer service training to hotel staff in this makeshift classroom in the lobby area of the Bacon Beach Resort and Dive Center.

## IRS Program launches across the country

By Robin Vernest, Office Manager, Atlantic Region

**C**ESO's Indian Residential School Program (IRS) is a comprehensive initiative which provides training for Aboriginal Residential School Survivors to manage and protect from misuse the compensation they receive through settlements. There are four essential and complimentary elements to the program.

1. A financial management information session, designed for the survivors.
2. A workshop designed for frontline workers to build their expertise and knowledge base in preparation for working with survivors on financial management.
3. Preparing and disseminating audio and video training materials designed for communities, family members and for the survivors unable to attend the training sessions.
4. Supporting the survivors' financial management awareness and decision-making capabilities, through a toll-free line.

The CESO Volunteer Advisers (VAs) participating in this important initiative attended Train the Trainer sessions, delivered by CESO across the country in July and August 2007.

Facilitated by Saskatoon VAs Wilf Weber and Fred Konkin, the program was launched in Saskatchewan with the first Information Sessions on Financial Management for former students of residential schools delivered in late August.

Some 150 Information sessions

will be held across Canada over a two-year period.

An Indian Residential School Frontline Workers' conference, hosted by the Outreach Residential School Atlantic Committee (ORSAC), took place August 27-30 in Moncton, New Brunswick, at the Delta Beausejour Hotel.

Sam Lafford, CESO's Regional Manager for the Atlantic, and I participated in the meetings to organize this event. Sam made a presentation on CESO's IRS program on the last day of the conference along with other economic development agencies. Bob Dickson, Vice-President CESO National Services, and Delia Scribleac, CESO's Manager National Programs, joined Sam and me to represent CESO at the conference.

Phil Fontaine, Assembly of First Nations National Chief, was also in attendance and made a moving presentation where he congratulated the organizers for working together and being at the forefront of this important initiative.

The conference was for frontline workers who work directly with survivors in the Atlantic region. Participants included workers in the financial, healthcare, social service and legal fields, as well as government bodies. In attendance were: Financiers, Band Managers, National Residential School Survivors' Society's (NRSSS) representatives, Social Development Administrators,



Pictured are CESO staff and volunteers at an IRSS program Train the Trainer session that took place in Toronto on July 18-19. Sessions for volunteers took place across the country in July and August.

National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program workers, Social Workers, Legal Aid/Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network workers, Aboriginal Liaison Officers, RCMP Officers, Aboriginal Healing Foundation employees, Chiefs/Councillors, Economic Development Officers, Elders, employees of Corrections Services Canada, and survivors who assist other survivors from reserve and off-reserve populations.

The purpose of the conference in Moncton was to give Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy First Nations an opportunity to explore, prepare and assist their survivors in preparation for the Final Settlement Agreement which was scheduled to take effect on September 19, 2007.

The goals of the Frontline Workers Conference were:

1. promote common understanding and impacts of the Indian Residential Schools experience;
2. provide resources and tools to mobilize frontline workers to assist survivors in managing their payouts; and
3. promote positive and effective outcomes during the Settlement Implementation.

For more information, contact Delia Scribleac at 1-800-268-9052, 416-961-2376, ext. 252, or [dscribleac@ceso-saco.com](mailto:dscribleac@ceso-saco.com). ■

# CESO and Governance: A primer

By Patrick Lohier

**D**uring the past decade, the themes of governance and capacity development have moved to centre stage in defining global efforts to combat poverty through economic growth.

Strengthening governance is an ongoing strategy for development in Canada and is recognized as an indicator for UN Millennium Development Goal #8 (Targets 12 & 18). CESO, as evidenced by our new mission statement, views good governance as central in contributing to poverty alleviation.

From a practical perspective, what exactly does governance mean to CESO's 3,000-plus Volunteer Advisers and staff?

First off, governance is not to be confused with "government." Government is the institution itself, whereas governance is a broader concept describing forms of governing which are not necessarily in the hands of a formal government.

Governance is the system of values, policies and institutions by which a society manages its economic, political and social affairs through interactions within and among the state, civil society and the private sector. It is the way a society organizes itself to make and implement decisions—achieving mutual understanding, agreement and action.

It comprises the mechanisms and processes for citizens and groups to articulate their interests, mediate their differences and exercise their legal rights and obligations. It is the rules, institutions and practices that set

limits and provide incentives for individuals, organizations and firms. Governance, including its social, political and economic dimensions, operates at every level of human enterprise, be it the household, village, municipality, nation, region or globe.

At CESO, our work supports this priority area and we can only achieve this goal through the work delivered by skilled VAs in Canada and overseas. Through assistance to organizations, SMEs, communities and institutions as diverse as judicial systems and courts, Aboriginal councils, human rights and women's groups, advocacy groups, municipalities, election committees and business associations, CESO strives to contribute in this area.

Recently, CESO launched a pilot program on e-governance with funding support from the Canadian Partnership Branch at CIDA. This project will be executed in about 40 municipalities in Luzon in the Philippines.

This project is aimed at building the capacity of the targeted municipalities in the field of information and communication technologies. The expected outcome is to improve governance, including increasing revenue generation, transparency and efficiencies of public service delivery by promoting human resources development in information and communication technologies. This in turn will lead to increased access and availability of information. While the project is governance

focused, specific assignments within the project may rely on the expertise of database managers, and computer, communications and other IT experts.

"It's a challenge," says Gale Lee, Program Officer for the e-governance project. "Often, VAs with an IT background and experience who are contacted by our recruiters are not sure how their skills match the needs of this project. They don't realize that IT expertise is one of the skills critical to our work in governance. We need to get the word out about the wide range of



Gale Lee (center) consults with Chamber of Commerce officials, Department of Trade and Industry Philippines (DTI) representatives and IT personnel on a tour of the municipality of Lubao, Philippines, in July 2007.

skills needed to assist in governance."

Lee observes that the diverse skills needed on the roster for governance projects can shift depending on the objectives of the projects, and can include expertise in information technology (e.g., the current e-governance project), municipal services, electoral processes, gender equality, and more.

CESO is now linking governance

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## Multi-tasking Pays Off

By VA Judith Schwartz

**M**ichelle Metacat-Yah is one busy woman. She is a mom, helps with the welding business that she and her husband started, tends to the horses on their hobby farm and volunteers in the community.

With all of her responsibilities, Michelle saw CESO's Aboriginal Women for Tomorrow (AWFT) workshops as a way to improve her skills to better manage the welding business.

Michelle, of the Bushe River Community, Dene Tha First Nation, Alberta, admits that financial management was a short-coming and all the paperwork was handled by an accountant. Now she has developed the skill-set to handle the paperwork herself. The course gave her the confidence to take a good look at the hobby farm and to work out a business plan to make it pay for itself. She hopes to raise harness racers and sell the foals.

Given such a busy schedule, one would think Michelle had enough

to do. She has somehow managed to add other responsibilities to her week. There is a shortage of teachers in her community and being a qualified teacher, she now substitute teaches. She says that, as a result of the courses, she "enjoyed being with grown-ups having been with kids all day" and decided to "get out of the house" a bit. Every other Friday, she volunteers as a "hotdog mom" serving some 500 schoolchildren at the local school.

Amazingly, Michelle has found time to give back to her community. She bonded with the other women in the course and they have formed a casual support group. In her business and farm, she believes strongly in supporting the local youth by giving them jobs and training them for future employment. Hopefully, as her businesses grow, so too will these opportunities increase. ■

*Judith Schwartz, formerly the Art Gallery Director/Curator at the University of Toronto, joined CESO in September 2006 and began in-house work with CESO National Services in June 2007.*

## CESO and Governance: A primer

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indicators to development outcomes in order to ensure that our work supports and stimulates good governance, improves citizens' participation and empowers people within communities and organizations. Additionally we are seeking ways to move beyond traditional governance themes such as public-sector management and transparency. These are well-established as socio-economic and human-development indicators,

but we also need to look at innovative methods that will serve people now, such as the e-governance project, especially in countries that are ready for such innovation.

We invite questions from VAs and staff to increase their understanding of governance, and particularly value input from VAs with skills that may support assignments for the Philippines e-governance project. ■

## CESO Client Corner

### Client Testimonial:

"The CESO VA (Volunteer Adviser Wilf Caplan) is a tremendous asset to CESO. I started off with nothing and have exceeded my own expectations. The VA is a patient, kind, professional and has such a positive outlook on life so this whole year has been a pleasure to work with him. His energy reinforced my own.

The VA is very deadline oriented and there wasn't a day that went by that he didn't answer my e-mails and completely exceeded my expectations because of the extra steps he took to assist me during this transitional period."

Arlene Kamalatisit,  
Miziwe Biik Aboriginal  
Business Resource Centre,  
Toronto, March 26, 2007

### Client Testimonial:

"Bill Robertson has changed my life and has renewed my energy to move on and make money... you can't buy that passion. PS: If I was the richest woman in the world I still wouldn't have enough money to pay Bill for what he has done for me...he's invaluable!"

Crystal Favel aka DJ Kwe,  
Music Producer,  
Motivational Speaker and  
CEO, Urban Indian  
Productions Inc.,  
Vancouver, July 16, 2007

# CESO at the Fifth Continental Meeting of Indigenous Women of the Americas

By Delia Scribleac

This summer, CESO was honoured to be present at the Fifth Continental Meeting of Indigenous Women of the Americas.

The meeting that took place from July 9-11, 2007, in Kahnawake, Quebec, was entitled Restoring our Balance and hosted by Quebec Native Women (QNW), a member of the Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas (ENLACE).

For CESO, the meeting was a good venue at which to promote the Aboriginal Women for Tomorrow program both in Quebec and beyond. CESO



Pictured at the meeting are Delia Scribleac, Manager National Programs, CESO National Services; Eugenia Humchack, CESO Volunteer Adviser from Verdun, Quebec; and Ariane Chenard, Program Coordinator, CESO National Services.

representatives who staffed the information table at the meeting were able to make new contacts, network, and share information about the tools CESO has to offer and the lessons learned through the administration of our programs.

For Indigenous women, the meeting was an opportunity to

exchange knowledge, spiritual wisdom and teachings, and promote decision making at the local level.

Some of the issues discussed included violence against women, health, intellectual property, and other human rights problems affecting Indigenous peoples. ■

### Update your volunteer file information

- Do you have a new e-mail address or a change in your personal information?
  - Do you want to add to your skills classifications?
- Roster Services keeps your personal information up-to-date. Please e-mail any changes to [toronto@ceso-saco.com](mailto:toronto@ceso-saco.com). ■

### VAs in the Media

If you've been interviewed by the media, invited to speak about your CESO experiences, or are the recipient of an award, we would like to share the details with our readers.

Mail your news clippings to Josie Marchese (700 Bay Street, Suite 700, Box 328, Toronto, ON, M5G 1Z6 or by e-mail at [jmarchese@ceso-saco.com](mailto:jmarchese@ceso-saco.com)) and contact her with the details of your award or speaking engagement. Tell us the name of the award and why you received it. Also tell us where you spoke and to how many people. ■

## VA Kannenberg honoured in China

Dr. Kannenberg, Professor Emeritus in the Plant Agriculture department at the University of Guelph, was sent by CESO to China to advise the Jiufeng Seed Group in Arun Qi on heredity and breeding of maize.

After completing his assignment in China's Inner Mongolia, VA Lyndon Kannenberg was asked by CESO's



VA Lyndon Kannenberg (centre) poses for this photo after being named Honorary Professor at Hulunbeier College in Inner Mongolia.

Country Representative, Mr. Lu Lianpeng if he would agree to being named an Honorary Professor at Hulunbeier College.

Dr. Kannenberg, accompanied on the CESO assignment by his wife Barbara, looked into the honour and obligations involved and was happy to accept. During a pleasant ceremony at which College officials and local media representatives were in attendance, he received the above certificate. ■



VA Kannenberg's Certificate

## Green Tourism in the Ukraine: A shared vision

By VA Al MacPherson

**C**ESO received a request from the Union for Promotion of Rural Green Tourism Development located in Kiev, Ukraine, for a CESO Volunteer Adviser (VA) to assess a proposed green tourism development project in south east rural Kiev.

This would be my first overseas assignment (September, 2006) to a country I had only read about as being the “bread basket” of Eastern Europe—agriculture not tourism.

Kolo-Ra Society, a member of the Union, and in particular its president, Alexey Trachuk, was my major contact. It was the Society’s vision to develop a 350 km auto trail highlighting the 6.3 million B.C., Trypillian Civilization along its route.

In addition, they had an ambitious plan to create a historical village of Ulyanyky, based upon an archaeological settlement dating back to 6 million B.C.

The area of Ukraine I visited has amazing potential to be

developed for both domestic and foreign tourism opportunities. It is full of cultural and natural history and just needs to be carefully developed to ensure sustainable tourism evolves, and economic benefits go to the local villagers.

My experience indicates that the benefits of eco-tourism development can be great both for the region surrounding the proposed Trypillian Trail and for Ukraine as a country. Sustainable eco-tourism protects the environment, economically benefits local communities, bringing in revenue and increasing employment, and preserves irreplaceable cultural and historic landmarks. The potential for this region is significant and the challenges enormous. I encouraged and provided guidance for Kolo-Ra Society to pursue developing a business plan for their vision.

Because of my experience as a college/university professor specializing in eco-tourism, park management and the environment, four universities located along this proposed Trypillian Trail asked me to speak to their students concerning eco-tourism, national park management and tourism marketing.

Lecturing at the universities was a highlight and I enjoyed the students and faculty interaction. It appeared the students and faculty themselves benefited from my lectures as evidenced by this excerpt from an article in their local newspaper: “from this time forward we are becoming a composite

link in an international project and will soon have to greet international tourists, thus we must be well prepared for this.”

That statement underscores my belief in the region's potential. Also, it underscores my belief that planning and developing the project will take local, national and international cooperation (my assignment being an example of the last) creating ties and partnerships to resources that can help Ukraine in a number of ways in the future.

During my assignment I already saw the start of this, as various tourism associations and regions started a dialogue about the potential for the region southeast of Kiev. In May 2007 (seven months later) two university administrators from Pereyaslav-Khmelnytsky Hryhory Scovoroda State Pedagogical University visited Canada as a follow-up to my lecture and discussion about program development. They were planning to have similar eco-tourism or green tourism programs for their university. I am encouraged to see efforts made by senior administrators from Ukraine University to develop educational programs to encourage opportunities for employment in green tourism.

CESO does make a difference and Canada has a key role to play in making our world a better place for all. I trust my small contribution has added to this effort and I look forward to my next assignment abroad. ■

*Al MacPherson joined CESO in 2004. He has completed two National Services assignments in Sault Ste Marie, Ontario as well as this assignment in Ukraine. A second assignment in Ukraine is planned for next spring.*



A glimpse of what a tourist might see in Ukraine.

# Staffing update

**Vicki Scully** joined CESO as the Regional Manager for BC and Yukon on June 25, 2007.



**Vicki Scully**

She was previously a Business Consultant specializing in Small Business Service, Social Enterprise Program Design, and Business Plan Development.

In this position, Vicki dealt with Small Business BC, Vancity Credit Union, Atira Women's Resource Society and a number of leading BC Social Enterprises. Vicki was called on as an adviser in these niche areas by a number of Business Improvement Associations, Community Lenders, Social Enterprises and Sustainability-focused Associations.

Vicki has a Bachelor Degree in Economics from Queen's University with a focus on Community Economic Development and Gender. She has worked with Dana Naye Ventures in the Yukon delivering Business Training and developing tailored programs for Aboriginal Communities and Aboriginal Youth.

On the personal side, Vicki lives in Vancouver and revels in the opportunity to play tennis, hike and kayak year-round. She volunteers at the BC Humane Society and sits on a number of

Advisory Committees for local Social Enterprises and a local Business Improvement Association.

**Tom Meecham** became CESO's Toronto-based Regional Manager for Ontario effective August 9, 2007.



**Tom Meecham**

He was employed by the Government of Canada for 17 years and before that he was with the Government of Ontario for 14 years.

Tom has worked with Aboriginal people throughout Ontario and Canada for over 30 years as a practitioner of community development, governance development and economic development.

Additionally, he has many years experience in senior level positions as both a manager in policy and program areas and as a senior negotiator in interest-based self-government and resource development negotiations.

A former secondary school teacher, Tom has good facilitation and public speaking skills. He is a good organizer who has developed effective, high performance professional teams and is a results-motivated leader with an established network of Aboriginal and non-

Aboriginal supports.

Tom also speaks basic Spanish (un poco), is an advanced student of Tai Chi, an accomplished potter and the family genealogist.

**Lucy Pelletier**, CESO's Regional Manager for Saskatchewan, is an original member of the Cowessess First Nation #73 within the Treaty Four Territory in the region of Saskatchewan.



**Lucy Pelletier**

She is of Cree/Salteaux descent and was raised in her home community into adulthood. Lucy possesses over 25 years of lifelong learning experiences as a grassroots practitioner for First Nations governments and organizations. She served in various executive capacities from Band Administrator to Director of Economic Development. For the last 10 years, Lucy has provided executive management services in the community economic development sector. This journey has deepened her passion for community development and the need to create strategies and build partnership synergies.

Additionally, in the past 20 years, Lucy has been privileged to serve on the Board of Directors for various companies and Aboriginal institutions. She

is the Board Chair for the oldest Aboriginal financial institution (AFI) in Canada, Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation Inc. (SIEF), which was established in 1986.

Prior to joining CESO, Lucy was the owner-operator of her own consulting company. She is also a very proud mother of three, Ashlee, Harvey and Kestrel, as well as the proud grandmother of an infant grandson.

**Michele Vyboh** joined CESO as the Support to SME Youth Program Co-ordinator, reporting to Chiara Marcazzan in our Montreal office.

Michelle received a bachelor degree in Politics and Communication from the University of Montreal in June 2006. While completing her degree, she also took a course abroad, at the Institute of Political Sciences in Lyon (France) in the winter of 2006.

Before working for CESO, Michelle was responsible for the recruitment and logistics for the Study of twins program in Quebec, a research project aimed at determining the role of the environment and genetics on children general development. ■

### Departures

- Gabe Lafond, Regional Manager for Saskatchewan
- Danilo Go, Senior Accountant
- Nadine Gaudreau, Co-ordinator, Support to SME-Youth program
- Brian Guo, DBA Developer ■

Les Groves passes away

An ardent CESO supporter for more than 20 years, Les Groves died in Peterborough, ON, on Sept. 6 after a brief illness. He was 92.

Les had a long and successful career in the home improvement industry, including many years with Stanley Works of Canada. After earning the well-deserved nickname "Mr. Hardware", Les was inducted into the Canadian Hardware and Housewares Manufacturers' Association Hall of Fame in 1984.

After retiring, he joined CESO in 1986 and completed three assignments. Even after retiring from the roster of Volunteer Advisers in 2004, Les made it his mission to inform people about CESO's good work.

He spoke to Rotary Club audiences across southern Ontario and in May of 2007 he completed his 98th speaking engagement. At that time, CESO presented Les with a Certificate of Recognition in appreciation of his public engagement work. Les, who served from 1939-1945 in the RCAF as a Navigational Instructor, is survived by his widow, Lila, two sons and two granddaughters. ■

**In Memoriam**

Our condolences go to the family of the following CESO volunteers who recently passed away:

- Gerald Colborne** of Winnipeg, MB
- Arthur Trapp** of Selkirk, MB

Their friends and associates will miss them. ■

# CESO Clubs

**Vancouver Island**

Bill Feyrer  
250-595-1905  
bill.feyrer@shaw.ca

**Surrey/White Rock**

Dean Struble, Chair  
604-536-6983  
strubled@shaw.ca  
The Club meets at the White Rock Library at 10 a.m the third Tuesday of February to June and September to November. There is usually a barbecue in August and a Holiday Season Luncheon in January.

**Vancouver/North Shore**

Priidu Juurand, Co-Chair  
604-872-6001  
priiduj@shaw.ca  
The Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at the West Vancouver Library.

**Southern Alberta**

Jack Heynen, President  
403-243-1269  
Fax: 403-243-3437  
heynenj@telusplanet.net  
Our luncheon-meetings will be held the first Monday of October, December, February, April and June. The first two will be at the Danish Canadian Club, 727 - 11th Ave. S.W., Calgary. For additional information e-mail Jack Heynen. The executive for 2007-08 is as follows: Jack Heynen, President; John Skelton, Vice-President; Tony Strickland, Secretary; and Bertha Davis, Treasurer. Directors are Francine Beland and Henry Murzyn. Past President is Eldon Loucks.

**Northern Alberta**

Rick Boyd, President  
780-487-0762  
rboyd@compusmart.ab.ca

**Saskatoon**

Jim Orosz  
saskatchewan@ceso-saco.com

**Winnipeg**

Bill Barbaza  
204-489-7585  
barbaza@mts.net

**Ottawa**

Art Cauty  
613-731-8648  
tcauty@rogers.com  
Ottawa Office:  
323 Chapel St. 2nd floor Ottawa, Ontario, K1N7Z2  
The Ottawa Club normally meets monthly for a luncheon at the RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Drive. Seats should be reserved at least one week ahead by calling the CESO Office - 613-236-7763, voice-mail extension 306. At the first luncheon of the year, we will discuss other venues for lunch.

**Mid-Ontario**

Soren Sondergaard  
519-821-9296  
odin@golden.net  
Our club meets twice a year, in the spring and fall. The club is meeting for lunch at Sunset Villa Restaurant in Puslinch, ON, at 12 noon, on October 18, 2007. Our speaker is: Paul van der Wel, CESO President and CEO.

**Niagara**

Helen Johnson, President, Secretary and Treasurer  
905-892-2937  
helenj@vaxxine.com  
The club meets for lunch at a St. Catharines restaurant. The Niagara club has just completed another successful year, with four lunch time meetings, when we heard from Paul van der Wel, Pam Koch, Bob Dickson and Dorothy Nyambi, and we are currently in the planning stage for next year's meetings'.

**Montreal**

Normand Chevrier  
normchevrier@yahoo.ca  
The Club holds seven luncheons per season. Our winter/spring season ended on a great note.

**Saco Est du Québec**

Jean Morand, President  
418-660-9640, ext. 286  
jeanmorand@videotron.ca  
Office: 3100, avenue du Bourg Royal, 2ième étage, Beauport, QC, G1C 5S7

# CESO at the Quebec Social Forum in Montreal

By Lysiane van der Knaap

**C**ESO was one of the many organizations that took part in the Quebec Social Forum held in Montreal August 23-26, 2007.

This was a local version of the World Social Forum and it attracted about 5,000 attendees. It was an open meeting place that brought together private citizens, and organizational and social movement representatives, providing them with the opportunity to express themselves and exchange information and opinions.

The goal of the event was to support the emergence of new political and cultural ideas based on people's commitment and participation in public life.

CESO sent staff from the International and National Services departments, including staff from CESO's Support to SME-Youth program. ■



Staffing the CESO table at the Quebec Social Forum in Montreal are: Jean-Louis Castonguay, CESO VA and recently named Honorary Life Member; Ariane Chenard, Program Coordinator, CESO National Services; and Lysiane van der Knaap, International Co-ordinator, CESO International Services.

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**BY FAX TO:** 416-961-1096  
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