

## From Toronto to Tibet: Training & Outcomes



Marc Foggin (C14, '09) & Gongbo Tashi (C8, '02) in Tibet, China

How do you capture the spirit and measure the success of a capacity building organization that is focused on leadership development and sustainability? The stories contained in this newsletter are perhaps a good start for such a con-

versation. They highlight our ability to find common grounds, deal with pressing challenges of our time and leverage our network of over 1,800 LEAD Fellows around the world.

Douglas Worts (Cohort 6, 1999) galvanized his neighbors in Toronto's Cabbagetown heritage district and the new LiveGreenToronto program to provide a grant to explore a retrofit of his street to geothermal heating/cooling systems and reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions.

Marc Foggin (C14, '09) and Gongbo Tashi (C8 China, '02), both pictured on the left, are pro-

moting sustainable development and biodiversity conservation in the Tibetan plateau, China.

Richard Paisley (C6, '99) directs a new \$2.6 million GEF UNDP initiative. Boris Graizbord, the National Program Director for LEAD Mexico, and Cuauhtemoc Leon (C2 Mexico, '95) are also contributing to this initiative.

Mehrdad Nazari (C7 Europe, '00) spearheaded LEAD Canada's successful partnership development with the Global Reporting Initiative. Marc Paquin (C5, '98) and Hugh Maynard (C6, '99) will also be contributing to this initiative.

## 13 New Associates Joined LEAD Canada

In August 2008, LEAD Canada welcomed the following new Associates (bios to be uploaded soon) to its Professional Development Program, which is co-sponsored by HSBC Bank Canada:

- Robyn Auld (St. John's)
- Carolee Buckler (Winnipeg)
- Stuart Chan (Toronto)
- Elizabeth Estall (Toronto)
- Marc Foggin (Montreal, see also article on Tibet, page 2)
- Dan Gieruszak (Brockton, ON)
- Brad Noble (Bracebridge, ON)
- Jaela Shockey (Saskatoon)
- Sam Shogren (Beaverton, Oregon, USA);
- Shayna Stott (Toronto);
- Ashley Taylor (Toronto);
- Collins Ugochukwu (Toronto);
- Heidi Vincent (Stitsville, ON).



Collins Ugochukwu (left) and Bob Willard discussing stakeholder topic

Systems-thinking and multi-stakeholder engagement were two main topics of the training, which was conducted at Toronto's Humber College. The training was led by Hugh Maynard (C6, '99) and Douglas Worts (C6, '99). Guest speakers included Bob Willard (pictured above), presenting 'The Business Case for Sustainability', Quentin Chiotti, discussing 'Pollution Probe's Perspective on

Climate Change' and Elbert Van Donkergoed, focusing on 'Sustainable Food Systems'. The program also included site visits related to the City of Toronto's Climate Change Action Plan.

Other LEAD Fellows shared their perspectives on how LEAD has changed their lives, both personally and professionally. These included Alexandre (Sasha) Nukhovitch (C1, '94), Alan Abelsohn (C6, '99), Robert Hellier (C7, '00), Joanne Thompson (C7, '00), Doug Kube (C5, '98), and Doug Pinto (C12, '07).

Please contact Hugh via [hugh@quanglo.ca](mailto:hugh@quanglo.ca) if you would like to be considered for LEAD Canada's Cohort 15 intake.

## Geothermal Energy in Toronto's Cabbagetown



Douglas Worts (C6, '99), pictured left of Mayor Miller of Toronto (center) during a grant award ceremony in early November 2008, lives in one of Toronto's historical district known as Cabbagetown. This neighbourhood derives its name from the Irish immigrants who moved there in the late 1840s. They were said to have been so poor that they grew cabbage in their front yards. Much of

the original houses were replaced by Victorian style houses, which are relatively energy intensive.

Concerned about climate change and looking for options to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, Douglas galvanized his neighbors to explore a retrofit of his street to geothermal heating/cooling systems. Such a retrofit could materially reduce GHG emissions and energy costs. He was also motivated to develop a replicable model for other energy intensive neighborhoods.

In early November 2008, Mayor Miller of Toronto announced that Douglas' neighborhood project was awarded a grant under the new LiveGreenToronto program. These funds will support a feasibility

study to progress this innovative initiative.

The study will review issues related to drilling a series of closed-loop, deep-well drill holes; assess opportunities and obstacles to make the shift from fossil fuel and electric heating/cooling to a geothermal system; and review financing options, including use of property tax as a financing and cost recovery vehicle for residents.

To learn more about this project, please contact Douglas via: [douglas\\_worts@rogers.com](mailto:douglas_worts@rogers.com). Douglas is a Culture and Sustainability Specialist with [WorldViews Consulting](#).

## Promoting Sustainability in the Tibetan Plateau



Dr Marc Foggin (C14, '09) and Prof Gongbo Tashi (C8 China, '02), both pictured on the front page, are jointly heading up the work of [Plateau Perspectives](#), which aims to promote sustainable development and biodiversity conservation in the Tibetan plateau region of China.

The Tibetan plateau is the highest, most extensive mountainous region in the world. It covers one-

quarter of China's land area and is the source of major Asian rivers, including the Yangtze, Yellow and Mekong. It is also home to many pastoralists and a unique assemblage of flora and fauna with many rare or endemic species. These include the snow leopard, wild yak, Tibetan antelope and the black-necked crane.

Plateau Perspectives now works in partnership with the Sanjiangyuan National Nature Reserve – a protected area that encompasses 153,000 km<sup>2</sup> of grassland, forest and wetland (larger than England and Wales combined) to protect the biodiversity and ecological function in the heart of the Tibetan plateau. Supported by the Government of Norway (NORAD), sev-

eral trusts and foundations, and a variety of private donors, Plateau Perspectives has been introducing a model of biodiversity conservation that builds on traditional ecological knowledge and experience: community co-management of natural resources.

Activities with the nature reserve include building the capacity of field staff and herders through workshops and joint planning/execution of wildlife surveys and conservation-oriented research; mitigation of human-wildlife conflict with special attention given to emerging conflicts with brown bear, wolf and snow leopard; environmental education in local schools and at community festivals.

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## LEAD Fellow Directs \$2.6 M GEF UNDP Initiative



[Richard Paisley](#) (C6, 1999), based at the Institute of Asian Research of the University of British Columbia, directs a new \$2.6 million GEF UNDP Initiative entitled “Good Practices and Portfolio Learning in Global Transboundary Freshwater and Marine Legal and Institutional Frameworks.”

Others associated with LEAD who will contribute to this initiative include [Boris Graizbord](#), the National Program Director for LEAD Mexico, and [Cuauhtemoc Leon](#), (C2 Mexico, ‘95).

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The objective of the initiative, funded by the United Nations Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and a wide range of government, NGO and private sector partners, is to foster more sustainable governance and effective decision making in integrated transboundary water and energy resources management.

The project identifies, collects, analyzes, adapts, replicates and shares beneficial practices and lessons learned from existing legal and other institutional frameworks for selected international freshwater, international groundwater and international marine environments.

This initiative is expected to lead to strengthened multi-country co-operation and more sustainable governance models. This will be achieved through more ecosystem-based and more adaptive management regimes. The initiative is also expected to increase economic and environmental benefits to countries sharing water and energy resources, along with assistance in meeting climate change challenges.

Experiential learning, South-South collaboration and learning, and gender issues are a key focal areas of all activities. To learn more about this initiative, please contact Richard via: [paisley@law.ubc.ca](mailto:paisley@law.ubc.ca).

## Partnership with GRI and Sponsorship from CGA



When the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) issued a call for Canadian Training Partners, [Mehrdad Nazari](#) (C7 Europe, ‘00) spearheaded LEAD Canada’s successful response. He was intrigued by the opportunity to help mainstream GRI’s sustainability reporting framework.

Using LEAD’s database of over 1,800 Fellows, Mehrdad identified and contacted a dozen Fellows with relevant core competencies and experiences. Those who joined hands to successfully develop and deliver this initiative include [Marc](#)

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[Paquin](#) (C5, ‘98), [Hugh Maynard](#) (C6, ‘99), [Carole Therrien](#) (C7, ‘00), [Alex Langshur](#) (C5, ‘98) and [Douglas Worts](#) (C6, ‘99).

The development of this initiative was co-financed by [LEAD International](#)’s Special Opportunities Investment Fund. Institutional sponsors include the Certified [General Accountants Association of Canada](#) (CGA-Canada), which is a self-regulating, professional association of 71,000 students and Certified General Accountants.

LEAD Canada has already started the certification process and is expected to become the first GRI-certified North American provider of courses on sustainability reporting using the GRI framework.

LEAD Canada’s first 2-day courses will be delivered in Toronto from 11-12 December 2008. Additional courses have also been scheduled for Montreal (15-15 Jan 09), Calgary (5-6 Feb 09) and Vancouver (19-20 Feb 09). Registrants associated with LEAD are eligible for special discounts.

For further information, please download course brochure: [www.leadcanada.net](http://www.leadcanada.net) and/or request further details from [mehrdad@prizmasolutions.com](mailto:mehrdad@prizmasolutions.com).

**Leadership** – having a *vision*, being able to *communicate* it, *build trust*, and *mobilize others* for collaborative action

### LEAD Canada Inc.

Mailing address: PO Box 250  
Ormstown QC J0S 1K0  
[www.leadcanada.net](http://www.leadcanada.net)  
Tel: 1-866-532-3539

**Board of Directors:** Carole Therrien (C7), President; Mehrdad Nazari (C7), Vice-president; Hugh Maynard (C6), Secretary & Treasurer; Victoria Antoniu (C8); Alex Langshur (C5); Jeannette Murry (C12); Lawry Trevor-Deutsch (C12); Douglas Worts (C6)

**Newsletter editor:** Mehrdad Nazari  
**Contributors:** M. Foggin, G. Tashi, D. Worts, R. Paisley, G. Hvenegaard, M. Paquin, M. Nazari

### About LEAD Canada ([www.leadcanada.net](http://www.leadcanada.net))

Emerging from the National Roundtables on Environment and Economy in 1994, LEAD Canada is now an independent nonprofit organization and a Member Program of LEAD International, which is the largest non-profit organisation in the world focused on leadership and sustainable development.

LEAD Canada offers a Professional Development Program, co-sponsored by HSBC Bank Canada, aimed at mid-career professionals and designed to foster the skills needed to deal with global and local sustainability challenges. The program is currently focused on Climate Change and Sustainable Cities.

## Promoting Sustainability in Tibet

*(Continued from page 2)*

Other development work carried out by Plateau Perspectives and its partners includes the establishment of village schools and a network of nearly a dozen village clinics through which access to health care has been significantly improved for Tibetan herders. Additionally, training workshops for village doctors and midwives have been organized annually for the past five years.

Recent activities included a study tour to the Gobi Gurvan Saikhan National Park in Mongolia during which the team learned about successful community participation in conservation efforts and mobilization for socio-economic development initiatives.

In March 2008, a harsh winter and severe snow storms across a vast area of Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in southwest Qinghai Province resulted in many herders losing 50-100% of their

livestock to starvation. Plateau Perspectives was able to provide some relief, with the purchase and (re)distribution of 180 yak to ninety families. Such events underline the importance of pursuing income diversification strategies.

In this ecologically sensitive area of China, yet a further challenge to community development and to community-based (i.e., people centred) conservation is a recently enacted national policy, termed 'ecological migration'. This policy seeks to relocate several 100,000s of Tibetan herders in Qinghai, Gansu and Sichuan provinces into new towns. Much more dialogue is needed between policy-makers, researchers and communities to ensure that any such changes are made in ways beneficial to both local people and the environment. For more information please visit [www.plateauperspectives.org](http://www.plateauperspectives.org) and/or contact the authors via: [foggin@plateauperspectives.org](mailto:foggin@plateauperspectives.org).

## Kudos

**Glen Hvenegaard** (C8, '02), Professor of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Alberta, Augustana Campus, won a 2008 McCalla Professorship award for significant contributions to his field of research, teaching and service. His recent publications include: Hvenegaard, G.T., J. Shultis, and J.R. Butler. 2009. The role of interpretation. Pages 202-234 In P. Dearden & R. Rollins (eds.) Parks and Protected Areas in Canada: Planning and Management, 3rd Ed., Oxford University Press, Don Mills, ON.

**Marc Paquin** (C5, '98), Executive Director of the Unisfera International Centre, recently gave a presentation on strategic issues at a Meeting of the Parties to the UN Convention on land degradation and desertification in Turkey and another one in Senegal on adaptation to climate change in the context of an international meeting organized by the Institute for Energy and the Environment of the Francophonie.