

Lots on the go for LEAD Canada in 2008

The 2008 year bodes well for LEAD Canada. This spring, so much is happening. It has been a long winter for many of us – literally and figuratively.

We are seeing keen participation from the newest arrivals to the LEAD Canada family. Twelve Cohort 12 Associates completed the first module of their program in November; six of them then participated in the International Training Session in Indonesia. They are bright and exceptional people with great ideas, keen insights and lots of chutzpah. They have been actively pulling together partnerships, identifying opportunities, and practically

by Carole Therrien
Acting President

lighting a fire under our feet! We're glad they're with us, and looking forward to another exciting module coming up this late spring. See Jeanette Murray's contributions in this newsletter.

In early March, we are having our AGM, but shaping it differently. The weekend starts with getting the less-exciting stuff over and done with – the actual "business" will be shrunk down to a couple of hours of obligatory reporting, then kicking it off with some good Friday-night net-

working at a local pub. The Saturday is dedicated to ideas: a planning session in the morning will be open to all and have some good brainstorming on how Fellows can be best integrated in LEAD Canada's directions over the next few years, and the afternoon is targeted to a training session on systems thinking for Cohort 12 Associates. The systems thinking goes on until midday on Sunday, and we'll wrap it all up in the afternoon. We hope you can find time for it.

Lots of projects are brewing (see

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Canadian Associates re-kindle international ties



A familiar scene for LEAD Canada Fellows—group picture time at the end of the International Session. Six Associates from Cohort 12 attended the LEAD International training session in Bandung, Indonesia at the beginning of December 2007, marking the return of Canadian participation to the international program after a hiatus of six years.

See more pictures on page 4

March 7- 8 — Harbourfront Community Centre, Toronto

LEAD Canada

Annual General Meeting & Planning Session

Getting back on track means . . . meetings, and LEAD Canada hasn't had a general meeting in a couple of years. So, it's time to catch up, approve the minutes and the financial statements, elect a new board and get some planning done for the year to come.

The general meeting on Friday, March 7th will get the formal stuff out of the way, to be followed that evening by a get together for refreshments at a nearby venue. LEAD Canada, having increased its level of project and training activity in the last two years, is now audited by a chartered accountant and audited financial statements for 2006 and 2007 will be reviewed at the meeting.

A number of directors will be stepping down so the Board is in need of some new blood. A perennial question to volunteer members – are you interested in devoting a few hours a month to leading and managing the affairs of LEAD Canada? If so, do we have a seat for you: contact Hugh Maynard, Secretary at your earliest convenience.

Looking to the future, a strategic planning process will be kicked off the following morning, Saturday, March 8th. The recent LEAD Canada activities have been a mix of projects initiated by LEAD members and directors, as well as the rejuvenation of the professional development program as a result of a Board planning session

in August 2006. The future beckons – there seems to be no limit to the opportunities in the area of sustainable development, but which ones and to what extent given that the organization is still finding its feet in terms of organizational resources and capacity. Come to the planning session and provide your input on the LEAD Canada program.

A second planning session with western Fellows will be arranged in conjunction with the second domestic PDP gathering for Cohort 12 in Alberta in mid-May, 2008. The meetings will be followed by two half-day professional developments sessions with the Cohort 12 Associates. If you are interested in what's going in with LEAD training these days, get in touch.

LEAD Canada Inc. General Meeting

Friday, March 7th, 2008 at 7:00pm

Harbourfront Community Centre *

627 Queen's Quay West (corner Bathurst)
Toronto, Ontario

LEAD Canada strategic planning session

Saturday, March 8th, 2008—9:00am - 12 noon

Harbourfront Community Centre

** The Harbourfront Community Centre is not to be confused with the Harbourfront Centre which is a performing arts centre down the road (east of Spadina.)*

LEAD Canada on the move

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the GRI piece in this newsletter). In addition to LEAD Canada's core business of delivering training opportunities, we also want to help pave the way for Associates and Fellows to deliver projects of interest. We encourage you to approach any Board member with any idea you may have.

We are aiming to deliver another Cohort module this upcoming May, but we're moving west this time – we're focusing on Alberta's burgeoning economy and associated environmental issues. I know it will be a success because we have the

involvement of some fantastic Fellows throughout Alberta who are leading on content and format. I'm really looking forward to seeing this through.

There's lots going on. And I'm pleased you are so keen to be part of it.

Toronto and Climate Change

By Jeannette Murry

How will the City of Toronto adapt to climate change? This topic was the focus for LEAD Canada, Cohort 12, when we met at Toronto's Harbourfront Community Centre from November 19-23, 2007. A number of the ten Associates have careers and experience in the environmental area yet they benefited immensely from a great lineup of speakers who highlighted various aspects of an adaptation strategy and examined mitigation possibilities for climate change within an overall context of leadership and sustainability.

Speakers covered topics ranging from reducing Co2 and transportation improvements, to health and more effective waste strategies. We even learned how lobbyists and petroleum producers look at the issue of climate change and adaptation. Citizen engagement, strategies to green Toronto, and to ways increase local food production were all discussed as ways to make Toronto more sustainable. Interspersed with all of this information and discussion were valuable sessions on

leadership and systems thinking, many presented by Fellows from previous cohorts.

Hugh Maynard and Douglas Worts did a fabulous job of facilitating the week long program and we all benefited from the keen insights provided by Jill Carr-Harris. The program opened on Sunday the 18th of November with a dinner and reception, and Quentin Chiotti from Pollution Probe as the keynote speaker. The culmination was a presentation to City of Toronto City officials, and by Friday six of the Associates were off to Bandung, Indonesia to join the LEAD International training session.

Cohort 12 is planning to get together again for the second domestic session from May 12-16, 2008 in Camrose, Alberta.

Jeannette Murry is a learning specialist with the World Bank in Washington, DC and an Associate in LEAD Canada, Cohort 12.

A LEAD'er for life

By Lawry Trevor-Deutsch

Lawry Trevor-Deutsch is president of Strathmere Associates International Limited in Ottawa, Ontario, and an Associate in LEAD Canada Cohort 12. His involvement with LEAD began in June 2007 as part of some research tasked to him by the World Bank about training in Leadership and Sustainable Development. Trevor-Deutsch says the program intrigued him from the start. "I was immediately impressed with LEAD's approach, scope and particularly the strong emphasis on the development of a LEAD network of practitioners."

Strathmere Associates International Limited specializes in business and economic development and in spite of many of the projects they work on touching on development in both emerging and developed economies, sustainable development hasn't played a big role to date. "Even with our 18-plus years of experience, sus-

tainable development has never been more than of passing interest to our clients," says Trevor-Deutsch.

After realizing that the company's skill base in this area was inadequate, Trevor-Deutsch decided to concentrate more on developing ways to incorporate Sustainable Development principles into their work. The goal was two-fold according to Trevor-Deutsch, first, to get a better grounding in sustainable development and second, to tie into a community of practice that would allow him to draw state of the art information while at the same time, contributing his own knowledge and experience when needed by others.

Strength in Diversity

The LEAD Canada Cohort 12 consists of a very broad base of disciplines; from environmental-

ists to anti-poverty activists to government to business (small and large). The initial training week in Toronto brought in speakers from all these groups and even consultants (and/or lobbyists) for major power generators and the fossil fuel industries. "Discussions within the cohort and with speakers were heated as positions were firmly laid out but I observed something remarkable that week," says Trevor-Deutsch. "The dialogue was good and the result was at least some understanding and appreciation of other positions. This makes us all better at what we do," he added.

Trevor-Deutsch traveled to Indonesia for the international training session that followed the session in Toronto. He says that the

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International in Indonesia

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LEAD approach to learning was extraordinary. “The LEAD training session keeps your mind challenged all the time – and always with the approach of hands on learning, creativity and exchange of ideas.” Trevor-Deutsch says the information he got from the sessions allowed him to see how he could put his skills to use in taking a sustainable development project and improving on it. “I came back from the international session very pumped up and ready to apply what I had learned.”

Colleagues and Friends for Life

The training sessions were undoubtedly an excellent networking opportunity, but Trevor-Deutsch says he got more from it than just that, he met his goals and made good friends in the process. “I remain in regular contact with many of the good people I met in Canada and Indonesia as well as the people at LEAD. I know that we can rely on each other for both personal and professional support.”



Top left: *Lawry Trevor-Deutsch checks out the crops on one of the field trips.*



Top right: *Erin Silsbe and Lyn Ponniah take advantage of the poolside.*



Above: Erin Silsbe, Lyn Ponniah, Doug Pinto, Dave MacLeod and Lawry Trevor-Deutsch (front) do the group pose on the side of a volcano.



Left: Meagan Cameron receives her certificate from Simon Lyster, Executive Director of LEAD International.



Right: Carole Therrien welcomes the gang to Bandung

Haro sur les sacs plastique

Par Paawana Abalo

Nos sacs d'emballage au supermarché, nos contenants de lunch pour la ville, nos stylos au travail, tous sont constitués de matières plastiques. Où que nous soyons, nous sommes continuellement en contact avec ce mélange chimique de granules de résine de polyéthylène. S'il est vrai que cette matière chimique nous est d'une grande utilité, il n'en demeure pas moins vrai qu'elle constitue un des éléments les plus dangereux pour la préservation des écosystèmes naturels.

Notre environnement en souffre. La levée de bouclier observée cette dernière décennie contre la plus usitée et la plus répandue des produits de cette matière que sont les sacs plastiques, constitue l'une des actions les plus poignantes des organisations environnementales et des gouvernements des pays du monde. C'est à juste titre lorsqu'on sait que plus de 100.000 animaux marins meurent chaque année de la pollution due à ces contenants toxiques non biodégradables.

L'exemple de l'action qu'entreprend actuellement la ville de Huntingdon au Québec est très édifiante sur la question au Canada. En effet, depuis Janvier 2008, un nou-

La biosphère crie détresse depuis qu'elle étouffe sous l'emprise des milliards de sacs chimiques plastiques fabriqués par l'homme. Les canadiens ont compris qu'il est grand temps de libérer la planète de ces étoffes meurtrières.

veau règlement impose aux habitants l'usage des sacs oxybiodégradables, réutilisables et composables en substitution des 30.000 sacs de plastique hebdomadairement utilisés par les cette communauté de 2500 habitants. Le règlement est strict tout le monde s'y soumet. Selon les analyses de cycle de vie, que rapporte la fondation québécoise en environnement, le sac réutilisable, qu'il soit en tissu ou en plastique, constitue le meilleur choix pour l'environnement vis-à-vis de l'utilisation des matières premières, de la consommation d'énergie ou de l'émission des gaz à effet de serre.

Le maire de Huntingdon, Stéphane Gendron, estime sur l'émission « Passez au vert » de TV5 Canada, qu'il s'agit d'une mesure « vert » des plus économiques notamment les populations et pour la municipalité. « Ça n'a pas de bon sang de gaspiller de l'argent des fonds publiques pour un programme de recyclage où on était l'otage des contracteurs privés » dit-il. L'autre avantage selon lui de cette mesure est

que les sacs plastiques sont directement éliminés à la source et la population économise en achetant le sac réutilisable à 3 cents contre 2 cents pour le sac plastique à usage unique. Précédemment en 2007, la municipalité de Leaf Rapids au Manitoba avait adopté une mesure similaire en imposant une taxe de trois cents pour chaque sac de plastique utilisé et en interdisant aux commerçants de vendre ou de donner des sacs de plastique. Tout contrevenant

reçoit une des amendes de 1 000\$ par jour.

Environ deux milliards de sacs plastiques sont distribués chaque année par l'ensemble des commerçants notamment dans la seule province du Québec. La lutte est peut être de longue haleine mais prometteuse si à l'instar des pays comme l'Afrique du Sud, le Bangladesh, Taiwan et bientôt la France les sacs plastiques non biodégradables étaient définitivement bannis des habitudes quotidiennes au Canada.

Paawana Abalo est chargée de cours en français à l'Université de York à Toronto et un membre du LEAD Canada Cohorte 12.

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

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LEAD Canada makes pitch for GRI training

Interested in assisting organizations in “triple bottom line” reporting in line the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), LEAD Canada recently submitted an expression of interest to become a training partner of GRI. The GRI is a global sustainability and CSR reporting framework developed using a multi-sectoral approach. The GRI framework includes sectoral guidelines, such as those relevant to extractive industries. LEAD Canada’s activities could include the development of training content and application of LEAD’s hallmark adult education methodology. This would include the use of regional case studies for would leverage LEAD’s extensive Canadian and global network, experience and infrastructure. A preliminary search within the network has already identified a critical mass of expertise and interest in GRI. LEAD Canada welcomes comments, suggestions and financial commitment by interested LEAD Fellows and institutions to move this initiative forward.

Support from LEAD International for 2008

LEAD Canada receives SOIF grant

LEAD International has provided LEAD Canada with a second grant under the Special Opportunities Investment Fund (SOIF) to carry on the work with rebuilding the Professional Development Program (PDP) in 2008. The project builds upon the successful re-launch of LEAD training in Canada in 2007 and the \$30,000 US contribution will support the organization to offer of the second stage of the PDP in Alberta from May 12-16th, 2008, followed by participation in the International Session to be held from November 16-22, 2008 in Mexico City under the theme “Sustainable Cities”.

The overall goal of the grant is to help LEAD Canada build on the foundation established in 2007 of an expanded, revenue generating professional development program including short LEAD course offerings and the possibility of a Canada-US Fellows training program for Cohort 13 in 2008 and beyond.

Plan of activities

March 2008: Strategic planning session of Fellows to create business plan including US market activity, a North American program, and initial thinking around ITS Canada in 2011

May 2008: Second national training session (complete C12, start C13)

Fall 2008: US market activity and follow-up to initial strategic planning session

November 2008: participation in ITS Mexico City

September - December 2008: Planning and securing of sponsorship for expanded LEAD training program in Canada in 2008, with possibility of a Canada-US Fellows training program.

Upcoming International Sessions

2008 – Mexico, Sustainable Cities (Mexico City, November 16-22)

2009 – China, Environmental Entrepreneurship

2010 – Africa, Millennium Development Goals/Poverty

2011 – Canada or Europe, CSR/Ecosystem Services

2012 – Brazil, Rio + 20.