

## LEAD Canada—re-organized, re-launched—ready!

Welcome to the second issue of the LEAD Canada newsletter. I'd just like to bring you up to speed on some of the key items that the organization has been dealing with over the last months.

Firstly, board changes. Earlier this spring, a number of our current board members were facing challenges in maintaining balance between work, family and LEAD volunteer responsibilities, and re-organization was necessary. Subject to a quick consultation with the organization's by-laws, a few responsibilities were re-distributed and confirmed on an acting basis. Board elections normally occur at the annual general meetings and since the next one is set for this coming winter, we figured some temporary designations would be an efficient and useful way of proceeding.



by Carole H. Therrien  
Acting President

Rob Rainer is now Acting Treasurer; Hugh Maynard assumes the role of Acting Secretary; Alex Langshur remains as Chair, along with Mehrdad Nazari, Linda Lusby, Marc Lalonde and Doug Worts who continue to serve the board as Members. I have the very challenging task of assuming the responsibilities of

Acting President of LEAD Canada's Board of Directors, but with board members like the ones listed above, it will be a piece of cake . . . what's difficult is filling the shoes left vacant by Rob Rainer who has worked tirelessly to bring the LEAD Canada ship about over the past few years. Thank you, Rob, for everything you have done.

Secondly, training. Many of you have expressed over the years that training was the cornerstone of what attracted you to the LEAD program. And the LEAD program had a vision of seeing a "return" for that training investment, which was the creation of a skilled, educated, supported and international network of leaders working towards the goals of a sustainable world.

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## HSBC Bank Canada supports LEAD

LEAD Canada proudly announces HSBC Bank Canada's support for the environmental leadership program, with the bank's donation of \$30,000 towards the LEAD (Leadership in Environment and Development) International Training program.

"We are very pleased that HSBC Bank Canada is helping to build our Associate Training program in Canada, and that they are

committed to building sustainable practices in Canada's business community," says Carole Therrien, Acting President of LEAD Canada.

The training, starting November 2007, will have a thematic focus on climate change, now a dominant public concern in Canada following one of the warmest winters on record. Fifteen mid-career professionals, drawn from



private, public and academic sectors, will participate in an intensive experiential training program that will introduce them to expert knowledge on sustainable development, as well as skills development targeted toward conflict resolution and systems thinking.

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November 18-23—Harbourfront Community Centre, Toronto

## LEAD Canada

### Professional Development Program

LEAD Canada (Leadership for Environment and Development) is offering a training program in Toronto on Climate Change - Adaptation and Mitigation. This opportunity will use the City of Toronto Climate Change Action Plan as a case study to explore the core concepts and many issues that are associated with tackling climate change.

This workshop is limited to 15 participants, and will include major focuses on climate change (adaptation and mitigation); systems thinking; and multi-stakeholder dynamics.

There is still one space left in the program and our application deadline for the Toronto session has been extended to November 2nd. For more information, please see LEAD Canada's website at [www.leadcanada.net](http://www.leadcanada.net). Feel free to pass on this information to colleagues who you feel may be interested.

More details at [www.leadcanada.net](http://www.leadcanada.net)

## LEAD goes to Indonesia

*Eight associates from LEAD Canada's Professional Development Program will join 150 other participants at the 2007 LEAD International Training Session (ITS) in Bandung, Indonesia.*

*They will be joined by Carole Therrien who will participate as LEAD Canada's National Program Director.*

*The participation of LEAD Canada in the ITS marks the organization's first return to international sessions with LEAD since the completion of Cohort 8 in 2003.*

## LEAD Canada ready

*(continued from page 1)*

It has taken a few years, but after figuring out "what we want to be when we grow up", the board forged ahead, secured some strong partners, found a few extra resources and we're re-invigorating the training program (see box above on this page.) Recruitment for the Professional Development Program, with a specific focus on the City of Toronto's Climate Change Action Plan, is now nearly complete, and your help in identifying strong candidates has been essential in securing an outstanding group of new associates. The decisions related to a longer-term approach to training

will be made in the months ahead. Details are also available on the website.

Speaking of the website, bookmark [www.leadcanada.net](http://www.leadcanada.net), since the website and occasional e-newsletters will become our primary source of sharing information with you. We're still working out a few kinks and building up the content, but would love to hear what you think about it. Some items on key projects in which we are involved, and some of the partnerships we are building, will be profiled in the website. The value of it will skyrocket once

we start highlighting the many successes of the Fellows in our Canadian network and if there is something you'd like to profile, feel free to contact any of the board members to discuss it.

Fourthly, new projects and going forward. This is a time when your input is especially valued, because we are launching a strategic planning process where we will be highlighting over a multi-year period what we will focus on. It's a difficult task - what to pick from a multitude of pressing issues all demanding valuable time - but for an organization like ours, we need

to focus and create our value. LEAD Canada's primary strength is in the raw value of so many experts in so many fields that can do so many things, the most important one being able to bring different sectors together and work towards a solution. That's our niche, and that is our organizational vision. And if there is an area you would like to dive into, or interesting partnerships that you are developing, let us know.

For the time being, that's it from my end and I will be speaking to more of you in the weeks and months ahead.

## A greener, more sustainable Great White North

by Susanne J. Brown

There's winter, and then there's Inuvik. "When you live in the Arctic, you have to expect Arctic conditions," says Peter Clarkson, a LEAD Canada Fellow from Cohort 6.

"The cold weather causes a lot of energy consumption," notes Clarkson. When the temperature drops to -30°C for weeks on end, "it has a huge impact on your electricity consumption, gas consumption, and wear and tear on vehicles," he says.

Clarkson lives in Inuvik - located two degrees north of the Arctic Circle - and is a former Mayor of the town. He has helped his community put into practice some of what he has learned



**Peter Clarkson—Cohort 6**

*"One of the most important things I gained from LEAD was the importance of having a vision as a leader."*

by being involved in the LEAD program.

"One of the most important things I gained from LEAD was the importance of having a vision as a leader," says Clarkson. The LEAD program taught him how to have good communication and presentation skills - "to listen to people, being able to speak to people, being able to understand," he says.

One of Clarkson's successful projects in Inuvik is a greenhouse. Building a greenhouse in that type of climate seems almost unfathomable, but Clarkson says,

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## Notes from LEAD International

### Special Opportunities & Investment Fund

A total sum of \$500,000 will be available to the LEAD Member Programs through the LEAD Special Opportunities and Investment Fund (SOIF) in 2008. LEAD Fellows are often involved in projects whose parameters may fall within the established criteria, and LEAD Canada would be pleased to assist in securing funding. Eligibility criteria can be found on page 6.

Decisions on funding will be reached in this calendar year. If you are interested in submitting a project concept for funding, applications must be made through LEAD Canada, and MUST be received by November 5th in order to be eligible. Decisions on recommended projects will be made by the LEAD Canada Board on November 8th, and forwarded for ap-

proval by LEAD International in the weeks to follow. Decisions will be communicated directly to member programs.

See the LEAD Canada website at [www.leadcanada.net](http://www.leadcanada.net) under "SOIF 2008" for the application form.

### Contact with high-level corporate training

*Message from Simon Lyster, Executive Director, LEAD International*

As you know, in addition to our Cohort training, LEAD is starting to provide its training services to both public and private sector organizations where we feel we can have a positive impact on sustainable development.

For example, two weeks ago, 75 high fliers from HSBC went to

Brazil, were split into six teams and each team spent 5 days hosted by a LEAD Fellow looking at a particular sustainable development challenge. It was designed as a leadership development and sustainability training exercise for the people from HSBC, and it worked very well. They were people in the 30-35 year old category who will be at the top of the Bank in 10-15 years.

We have recently been asked by two multinational private sector organizations whether we could assist in providing sustainable development training to top level executives, people who are currently at chief executive level. Do any of you have experience in this - and might be able to help us put together an appropriate module? If so, please let me know.

## Great White North

*(continued from page 3)*

“We have been able to extend the growing season here by two months” from mid-May until late September.

The greenhouse was built from an old covered arena, “A group of us pooled together resources and funding and had a vision of how we could change an old skating rink into a community greenhouse,” says Clarkson.

Among other things, Clarkson is the senior civil servant for the Beaufort-Delta region. As such he is busy coordinating matters between the Premier, various government departments and their ministers, as well as being a liaison between the Aboriginal and community governments when looking at government initiatives.

Having first arrived in Inuvik as a wolf and grizzly bear biologist doing field research, Clarkson’s interest has always been in the preservation of the environment. He wants “to see what we can do to be more green, more energy efficient, more sustainable in the long term things we do.”

Clarkson feels the influence of the LEAD program in his work, “it is always on the radar screen or on the horizon to try and be incorporated into whatever we are doing,” he says.

A positive for Clarkson is that it’s nice to know “you can do things to be more sustainable for the long term than what has been done in the past.”

## China—revisited



Mehrdad Nazari (LEAD Europe Cohort 7, and board member of LEAD Canada Inc) had a chance to revisit China, which also hosted his International Training Session in 1998 (*Stakeholders and Decision Making: Sustainable Development through Integrated Water Management*). During his recent visit, which included a short stay in Tibet, he connected with a number of LEAD Fellows, including Gongbu Zhaxi (LEAD China Fellow Cohort 8, and Associate Professor at the Agronomic Department of Tibet Agricultural and Animal Husbandry College) and Chengbo Wang (Lead China Fellow Cohort 5, Academic Director of LEAD China). They explored collaboration opportunities involving capacity building, biodiversity conservation, and promoting best practice in extractive industries in China. Mehrdad was invited to return and deliver a presentation on CSR issues for LEAD China’s Cohort 12 training in Beijing in early 2008, for which he now is seeking co-sponsorship. Prior to setting up his own advisory practice focused on ESIA’s and CSR in emerging markets in 2004, Mehrdad was a Project Manager with Dames & Moore, an Environmental Advisor at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and a CSR Research Director at CoreRatings (now Innovest and DNV). To explore sponsorship opportunities, please contact Mehrdad at [Mehrdad@prizmasolutions.com](mailto:Mehrdad@prizmasolutions.com).

**Give us a call—1-866-532-3539**

## Soil, Soul and Spirit—A Journey of Self-Discovery

by Sarah Haverstock

There is something to be said for leaping out of tall buildings. Leaving your comfort zone and diving into the unfamiliar. One of my bigger 'Just do it' moments of late was deciding to spend my summer volunteering in Malawi.

As most good things begin, the opportunity to go to Malawi arose with some good luck, good timing and hard work. Acadia environmental science professor Linda Lusby (LEAD Canada Cohort 4) is one of many people working to develop a partnership between the agricultural sector in Malawi and that of Nova Scotia.

Among the partner organizations involved are WUSC (World University Service of Canada), LEAD (Leadership in Environment and Development), the Farmer's Union of Malawi and the Catholic Development Commission of Malawi. About 85% of Malawians are subsistence farmers so the agricultural sector is as good as any to focus development efforts on. I was working with the Catholic Development Commission of Malawi (CADECOM) and living with one of their Agricultural Field Officers, Costa Nkhani, in a region called Mpiri about 50 km West of the Mozambique bor-

*The author is a student at Acadia University and participant in the LEAD Canada/WUSC Malawi project to promote the MDGs. Condensed from the original article published in "Athenaeum", the student newspaper of Acadia University. The full version can be obtained at [www.theathonline.ca](http://www.theathonline.ca)*

der.

Our job was to implement CADECOM's Integrated Food Security Project which has four main goals: to increase crop diversification and production, to form farmers groups to facilitate the marketing of crops, to train villagers in post harvest management, and to provide education on HIV/AIDS and gender issues.

Covering 20 villages by motorbike, we delivered workshops and demonstrations to villagers. We had food processing workshops where we made things like jam and peanut butter, soy milk and banana bread; demonstrations on how to make contour ridges, compost manure, nursery beds and transplant beds; training in treadle pump use for irrigation, and discussions on environmental husbandry.

The greatest challenge that I faced in the villages was the language barrier. Although English is Malawi's official language, no one in the villages speaks it. It is only those who have continued past primary school who speak English and most

of these people live in the cities.

You always hear about the widespread occurrence of HIV/AIDS and malaria in Africa. In the villages that we covered only two of our beneficiaries had openly admitted that they were HIV/AIDS positive. However, hidden in consented silence, it was common knowledge that many people suffered from it. One had only to see the number of orphans or count the number of funerals.

In Malawi I discovered the satisfaction in living day by day. Not to be thinking about ten things at once and running from one place to another. To stand still, to watch and not understand what is

being said but understand perfectly well what is being felt, to pull a potato out of the ground, to hold hands.

It is nice to be part of a community where people work hard to take care of one another, where people sing as they cook, and dance because there is music. I always knew the importance of the ability to exist in the present but I had never experienced it for an extended period of time, and as such had never really understood how intimately it is associated with happiness.

It is not as easy in our fast paced, production and consumption driven society, but I have resolved to try and have time for people. When it comes down to it, it is the people in my life, and loving them that are most important to me and I will not so easily lose sight of that anymore.

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### Earth Journalism Network

## Fellowship

*For Participation in the  
13<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties  
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Applications available from  
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[sutharin.koonphol@internews.org](mailto:sutharin.koonphol@internews.org)

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

### LEAD Canada Inc.

*Head Office:*  
39 Montée des Cerisiers  
Chelsea, QC J9B 1S6

*Mailing address:*  
PO Box 250  
Ormstown QC J0S 1K0  
hugh@quanglo.ca  
**1-866-532-3539**

*Board of Directors*  
Alex Langshur, Chairperson  
Carole Therrien, Acting President  
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Hugh Maynard, Secretary  
Marc Lalonde  
Linda Lusby  
Mehrdad Nazari  
Douglas Worts

Newsletter editor—Hugh Maynard  
Contributors: Susanne J. Brown, Sarah Haverstock, Linda Lusby, Margo McCaffrey, Mehrdad Nazari, Carole Therrien

### LEAD International Special Opportunities & Investment Fund (SOIF)

*Eligibility:* All Member Programs (MP) of LEAD are eligible to apply for the SOIF. Evidence of progress of previous projects must be given before funds are awarded for new projects.

*Level of funding:* The SOIF will fund projects between \$10,000 and \$60,000. MPs may apply for more than one activity, but the total requested in the calendar year may not exceed \$60,000.

*Types of activities* to be presented for SOF funding will be those undertaken by LEAD MPs that are consistent with LEAD's mission, and meet as many of the following characteristics as possible:

- will strengthen the MP and help it become self-sufficient
- will bring in other funding
- involve members of the LEAD community in the MP country or region
- are scalable and replicable within the LEAD network
- will enhance or increase the standing and reputation of LEAD generally

More details: [www.lead.org](http://www.lead.org)

## HSBC Bank Canada

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Georgina Lutterodt (Commercial Financial Services Officer, HSBC Bank Canada), Marc Lalonde and Rob Rainer (LEAD Canada) and Keith Exelby (Vice President and Ottawa Branch Manager, HSBC Bank Canada) celebrate the company's \$30,000 donation to support the launch of LEAD environmental training in Canada. (photo: LEAD Canada Inc.)

Once completed, participants become life-long members of the worldwide LEAD network, currently totalling over 1,600 people in more than 80 countries.

"HSBC embraces corporate social responsibility and is committed to sustainable development," said Lindsay Gordon, President and Chief Executive Officer of HSBC Bank Canada. "In 2006 the HSBC Group supported LEAD International in their efforts to promote investment in European firms on the leading edge of sustainability practice. Our donation to LEAD Canada today

is an extension of this support. We are proud to contribute to the training of emerging Canadian leaders dedicated to finding ways to help society progress economically, socially and environmentally."

HSBC Bank Canada, a subsidiary of HSBC Holdings plc, has more than 170 offices and is the leading international bank in Canada. With around 10,000 offices in 82 countries and territories and assets of US\$1,861 billion at 31 December 2006, the HSBC Group is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organizations.