

# ARCTIC FUTURE

## The Circumpolar International Internship Newsletter



Issue 1, March 2004

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### Resources

#### Arctic Council

<http://www.arctic-council.org/index.html>

#### Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat

<http://www.arcticpeoples.org/>

#### University of the Arctic

<http://www.uarctic.org/>

#### Arctic Council International Internship Program

<http://www.iisd.org/interns/arctic/>

### Arctic Council International Internship Program (ACIIP)

Between 1999 and 2001, the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), in co-operation with the secretariat for the Future of Children and Youth of the Arctic (supported by the Arctic Council), piloted an international internship project. As part of the project, eight northern Canadians between the ages of 19 and 30 were placed with leading organizations to gain valuable overseas work experience and skills in the field of northern sustainable development. The Canadian government, through Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, financially supported the internship project.

In 2003, the pilot project was expanded to include youth from Finland and Russia with financial support from the Centre for International Mobility and the Northern Forum. To date, 20 northern youth have participated in this program (18 Canadian participants; one Finnish participant; and one Russian participant). They were placed with the following host organizations: World Wide Fund for Nature; University of the Arctic; the Northern Forum; Arctic Research Consortium of the U.S.; the Global Resource Information Database (UNEP-GRID); and the Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat.

In January 2004, four northern Canadian interns (two from Fort Smith; one from Whitehorse; and one from Yellowknife) gathered at the IISD office in Winnipeg prior to departing for their placements

*Arctic interns take a short break from their intense training at IISD in Winnipeg. Photo by Nigel Allan.*



in Norway, Finland and Denmark. The orientation was a chance to meet fellow interns, to learn more about sustainable development issues and to gain skills. Topics discussed included climate change, communications, proposal writing and project management.

Bios for current ACIIP interns can be seen at [http://www.iisd.org/interns/arctic/current\\_list.asp](http://www.iisd.org/interns/arctic/current_list.asp)

### Update on the Expansion of the Internship Program

IISD is working with the Future of Children and Youth of the Arctic, the Centre for International Mobility and the University of the Arctic on the development of an International Circumpolar young leaders program based on the model of the pilot internship program for northern Canadians.

The program will enable a minimum of two youth from each circumpolar country to spend up to six months with an organization in another circumpolar country working on northern issues. They will undergo a one-week online training course that will cover topics in northern sustainable development, the workings of the Arctic Council, cross-cultural communications and leadership skills. The curriculum will include case studies, problem-solving exercises and assignments.

For further information, please contact Carolee Buckler, Project Manager at [cbuckler@iisd.ca](mailto:cbuckler@iisd.ca)

### The Future of Children and Youth of the Arctic

In September 1998, Lloyd Axworthy (then Minister of Foreign Affairs) and Jane Stewart (then Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development) co-hosted the first Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in Iqaluit, Nunavut. The eight Circumpolar Council member countries and the four Permanent Participants representing Indigenous peoples of the North, agreed on Action Plans for the next two years. The goals of the Action Plans were to promote sustainable development (specifically environmental protection), economic development and human rights. A strong emphasis was placed on youth and education as about half of the population in Canada's

North is under the age of 15 (a figure similar to that in other parts of the circumpolar region).

Under the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Program, Canada is leading The Future of Children and Youth initiative. Its goals are:

1. to improve the health and well-being of children and youth in the Arctic; and
2. to improve the basis for sound decision-making by increasing the knowledge and understanding of sustainable development among Arctic youth and children.

There are two components under the Future of Children and Youth of the Arctic: the Health Program and the Networking Program. The Arctic Council International Internship Program falls under the networking objectives.

The current objectives of the health program are:

1. examination of existing baseline data and studies in key areas that are related to the health of children and youth in the circumpolar region and identification of gaps therein;
2. assessment of processes and approaches used at international, national, regional and community levels that might provide models for action in Arctic regions; and
3. an action plan that takes into account the results of objectives 1 and 2, the nature of specific issues, and scientific and traditional knowledge, as appropriate, that will lead to the elimination or mitigation of problems associated with health.

The objectives of the networking program are:

1. to educate, engage and build the capacity of children and youth in the circumpolar North with regard to issues of sustainable development;
2. to support educators in their efforts to teach these issues as they relate to the Arctic region; and
3. to create networks and communities of interest among circumpolar children, youth and educators.

For further information about the Future of Children and Youth Initiative, contact Lee-Anne Hermann, Deputy Director, Aboriginal and Circumpolar Affairs, Foreign Affairs Canada and International Trade Canada: lee-anne.hermann@dfait-maeci.gc.ca

### An Intern's Account: Paula Anderson



#### **Junior Advisor with the Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat**

My internship started with a mad rush to get ready to relocate to Copenhagen, Denmark. As I waded through the

preparations needed to move overseas for five months, I began to wonder what I was getting myself into. However, on the plane to London and then Copenhagen, I realized that the preparation had definitely been worthwhile—getting the chance to work abroad is something I have always wanted to do. And, nearly three months into my placement, I can say that being able to work with an Arctic organization has been a great experience.

My placement has opened doors to the circumpolar North, and networking has shown me how small the North can be, even though it covers so much space. Having access to information and people in the Arctic has been invaluable.

During these five short months I am working with the Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat, completing two main projects. The first is a Traditional Knowledge Guidebook which will enable working groups involved in the Arctic Council to collect and include traditional knowledge in their research. It will include, but is not limited to, an overview of each Arctic culture, intellectual property rights pertaining to traditional knowledge, guidelines on collecting traditional knowledge and further resource information.

The second project I am working on is a list of possible funders for the Permanent Participants.

Separated into regional, national and international funding agencies, the list will include all necessary information, deadlines and partnership requirements.

The internship program has been a great experience for me thus far, and will be for future participants as well.

### An Intern's Account: Kirk Tyler



#### **Projects Assistant with University of the Arctic**

I have come a long way from Whitehorse to live at the Arctic Circle. I work for the University of the Arctic (UArctic) in Rovaniemi, Finland. Even though I have

travelled half way around the world, I still surprisingly feel at home. There is a special quality to living in the North that all northerners around the world share. We have a unique connection with our environment and communities that unites us.

While working at the University of the Arctic, I have been exposed to an international circumpolar organization that has taken to heart the idea that northerners share the goal of protecting and advancing the North. This realization has assisted me in my placement as a projects assistant to further the UArctic goals of enabling higher education in the circumpolar North. My work is in the area of project management, where I assist in the development of manuals that will facilitate UArctic activities and provide support to a UArctic governing council committee.

This opportunity to work internationally in the North has provided me with the ability to develop my professional skills and has exposed me to a northern-focused organization. Having the ability to experience another part of the North and a different culture will provide me with a renewed and fresh perspective when I return home.

The Finnish people and their acceptance, and even celebration, of winter, have amazed me. People are everywhere walking, riding bicycles, and—my favourite—little old ladies zipping around on kick sleds. Near where I work and live, the Kemijoki and Ounasjoki rivers join to create a frozen highway where a constant stream of skiers, walkers and snowmobiles flows up and down the river. People take great pleasure in being outside and being active. I have seen a winter car rally, outdoor market and, best of all, a reindeer race in downtown Rovaniemi where people on skis are pulled by reindeer!

I have had the good fortune to participate in this international internship program through IISD under the Arctic Council International Internship Program (ACIIP), which is financed and supported by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada.

### Recent Event

#### **Northern Dimension of Canada's Foreign Policy Outreach Roundtable Iqaluit, Nunavut March 23–24, 2004**

A number of stakeholders met for this event, including Canada's ambassadors to Norway (Shirley Wolff Serafini); Iceland (Richard Tetu) and Sweden (Lorenz Friedlaender). At this meeting, presentations were given by Lars Kullerd from the University of the Arctic; Sheila Watt-Cloutier, chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference; and two former Arctic Council interns, Letia Cousins and Christine Short. The purpose of the event was to obtain input from various stakeholders for setting priority areas for funding under this initiative. This event was organized by the Deputy Director of Aboriginal and Circumpolar Affairs with Foreign Affairs Canada and International Trade Canada in partnership with the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Arctic College.

### Recommended Resource

Directory of International Work Experience and Educational Opportunities for Youth  
[http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2003/interns\\_aciip\\_dir.pdf](http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2003/interns_aciip_dir.pdf)

The purpose of this directory is to inform people between 18 and 30 years of age from Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the United States of America of the work experience and educational opportunities open to them in the circumpolar region.

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IISD's vision is better living for all—sustainably; its mission is to champion innovation, enabling societies to live sustainably. IISD receives operating grant support from the Government of Canada, provided through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and Environment Canada, and from the Province of Manitoba. The institute receives project funding from the Government of Canada, the Province of Manitoba, other national governments, United Nations agencies, foundations and the private sector. IISD is registered as a charitable organization in Canada and has 501(c)(3) status in the United States.

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