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## What's New at EPN

We, at End Poverty Now, are celebrating the transition of the year thanking and congratulating departing staff and welcoming in new. We cannot be more appreciative of the great work that has been accomplished within the past years and we are excited to continue this work with fresh ideas.

With this, we are beginning the third volume of End Poverty Now newsletters, continuing with a new line of monthly podcasts, and launching our My Poverty Plan campaign in which individuals will be able to submit their ideas on how poverty alleviation can be actualized. We are also launching two new campaigns: *Step by Step* where we will share stories of volunteerism in Canada and abroad as well as *In Our Backyard*, a campaign of photo-journals related to social issues and success in the face of addressing poverty.

We are excited to provide continual support to the Rwanda Bee-Keeping Project through the Rwanda Village Concept Project, the Projet Autochtone du Quebec, and a Backyard Gardening Venture through the International Association for Transformation. These organizations are doing amazing work every day to actualise real change in the lives of many.

As you will notice over the coming months, End Poverty Now is having a makeover: Our website is being re-designed, our curriculum is being re-vamped, our sponsorship team has recently released a new sponsorship package and we are continuously searching for new ways to involve new schools and Chapter groups.

Jennifer Sault  
Executive Director

## Our Mission

End Poverty Now is an organization that is dedicated to the long-term battle against abject poverty. End Poverty Now represents a group of dedicated individuals, mainly students, who want to make a difference in the world through working to address the causes and relieve the effects of poverty. For more information on how to get involved with End Poverty Now, check out our website at [www.endpovertynow.ca](http://www.endpovertynow.ca).

To contribute to the production of the newsletter, e-mail

[newsletter@endpovertynow.ca](mailto:newsletter@endpovertynow.ca).



## Poverty in the News by Valerie Bello

Many things have happened since I began the Poverty in the News section on Twitter. However, none has been more broadly broadcasted or talked about than the June 25<sup>th</sup> death of music legend, Michael Jackson. With all this poverty and misery, wars and famines occurring all around us, I cannot help to ask myself why is it that we focus so much attention on the death of one person that, although very influential, cannot account for the 25,000 people who according to the United Nations die every day of hunger or hunger-related causes. <http://www.poverty.com/>

Every day celebrities use their popularity to raise awareness about causes such as Poverty as seen on the [ONE Vote TV Spot posted on Twitter May 18<sup>th</sup>](#) (featuring Brad Pitt, Penelope Cruz, P Diddy, Susan Surandon, Edward Norton, Cameron Diaz, Dennis Hopper, Justin Timberlake, Al Pacino Antonio Banderas, Alfre Woodard, Noah Wiley and others) or as posted on [Twitter on June 22<sup>nd</sup>](#), Angelina Jolie reminding us of World Refugee Day. But why do we need these famous people to constantly remind us about the less fortunate, to constantly call on us to help others? Frankly, I do not pretend to have the answer to this question, yet it does concern me.

In the meantime, since it is a fact that celebrities do help campaigning, let's put aside Michael Jackson's music genius or his scandalous personal life and concentrate on what is most important, what he has contributed to the Fight Against Poverty and many other related causes. Let's focus on the lyrics to his 1991 song Heal the World.

Thank you Michael for reminding us about what is important, may you rest in peace.

Valerie Bello  
Poverty in the News Officer  
[povertyinthenews@endpovertynow.ca](mailto:povertyinthenews@endpovertynow.ca)

Check out our Poverty in the News section on Twitter where our dear Valerie posts links on the latest poverty related news!

Link: <https://twitter.com/epnnews>

## A Warm Welcome by Deni Abdullahi

Our featured organization this month: Accueil Bonneau, Montreal.

For over 130 years, The Accueil Bonneau has been helping the homeless community of Montreal reintegrate into society. Founded in 1877, the institute was initially called 'Hospice St-Charles'. It was later demolished due to the construction of a new railroad, but the needs of the homeless remained. Consequently, the institute was re-established and was named after Sister Rose-de-Lima Bonneau, who was in charge of the establishment for over 20 years.

With the help of volunteers, the institute provides the homeless with essential services such as a cafeteria where over 320,000 meals are served every year. The cafeteria is open everyday, including holidays, and is crucial for individuals living without a stable residence. Amongst services offered, The Accueil Bonneau supplies clothing, shoes, blankets and other rudimentary articles to the people who need them. Over 60,000 clothing items are distributed annually. Moreover, hygienic services such as haircuts are offered twice a week.

The Accueil Bonneau meets the needs of thousands of individuals who lack a stable address and with no point of reference apart from the institute. By supplying the underprivileged with basic necessities, the institute has become a steppingstone towards a life of financial and social stability for many.

To that, we say Thank You!

For more information on the organization  
Accueil Bonneau  
427 de la Commune Est  
Montréal, Québec  
H2Y 1J4



## From the Grassroots: A letter from our intern in Rwanda

“You’re either an Africa person, or an Asia person”. My friend Elizabeth posits her theory as we sit poolside at Hotel Credo. Lindsey, my housemate, immediately responds with a forceful: “I’m so an Asia person”. We all laugh, because this scene is unfolding in Rwanda, the heart of Africa.

As for me, I can’t claim to be fulfilling some long-held childhood dream to come to Rwanda. I applied to End Poverty Now’s internship here on a lark; my other summer plans fell through in March, thanks in large part to the global economic recession. I was looking for anything to keep me busy for four months, so when I saw the combination of words ‘beekeeping’, ‘widows’, and ‘Rwanda’, I jumped at the opportunity. Only a few months later, I’m writing from Butare, the intellectual centre and second-largest city in Rwanda, where I’ve been living for nearly seven weeks.

There was only one problem. In keeping with the unpredictable changes of fate and happenstance that brought about my internship in Rwanda, it occurred to me that...I actually didn’t know much about this country. Oops! I knew, intellectually at least, that Africa is not a homogenous, massive plot of land full of nation-less ‘Africans’. I knew there were national, tribal, geographical, cultural, racial (and so on) differences. This ‘knowledge’ didn’t prevent me from conjuring up an embarrassingly limited and ignorantly stereotypical array of images: deserts, lions, giraffes, wide plains, tents, the blazing sun, drums, huts. Only upon my arrival would I find that, no, Rwanda isn’t teeming with deserts and lions. About the last thing you would call it is ‘flat’, and though the sun is shining now, it rained non-stop in my first month here. Maybe these pre-departure visions are not poor estimations of another African country, but as far as Rwanda goes, they were just *wrong*. The other images I’d had, those of Rwanda specifically, weren’t so innocuous: HIV/AIDS, machetes, disease, war, death, hunger, thirst. Above all, like most Westerners, when I thought of Rwanda, I thought of genocide.

I imagined a fragile peace tentatively balanced in a place writhing with hostile energy. I imagined hatred, guilt, resentment, distrust, sorrow. The images I conjured up in my sheltered mind were only negative. Now, I am happy to report that I was just as wrong in my estimation of Rwanda as I was in my mental depiction of Africa.

As I’ve been saying, I’m no expert on Rwanda. Furthermore, I cannot claim any expertise in the matter of genocide—not its causes, its conflicts, or its repercussions. What I offer here, which could easily and perhaps justifiably be perceived as ‘naïve’, is only my honest view of Rwanda. Much of this insight, if you can call it that, comes from my work in the villages outside Butare. The



women I work with are widows; indeed, some are widows of men killed in the genocide. But others are ‘widows’ of men imprisoned for crimes committed during the genocide. Still others are widows of HIV/AIDS. Many of the women are living with HIV/AIDS themselves, and/or raising children who have contracted this devastating disease. In this community of women, Hutu and Tutsi and Twa, it does not feel as though the genocide—and its legacy—is the force now threatening the tentative peace and partnership in our community; rather, a new enemy threatens the lives of Rwandans. This ongoing threat of HIV/AIDS Rwanda shares with most other African countries, and many other communities around the globe. I do not mean to minimize the impact of the genocide, planned and executed only fifteen years ago this past April. Physical, emotional and psychological scars still run deeply beneath the calm, orderly surface of Rwandan culture. The travesty and impact of the genocide will not soon be forgotten, will not cease to hurt its survivors. But it seems to me that, now, Rwandans are rallying around each other in order to ward off a common enemy, a disease that does not discriminate based on tribe. The word on everyone’s lips is now ‘AIDS’.

Recently, I wrote to family and friends about our housekeeper in Butare. I noted his tendency to lie face down on the grass in our yard for hours at a time. I thought this was a curious and cute habit, and I wanted to ask him what he was thinking about during these times. One family friend responded to me, “Sarah, think about where you are”. This was an interesting point. I *hadn’t* thought that Nyamwasa could be thinking about the genocide. I clamped up with shame, feeling completely naïve and embarrassed by my musings. Perhaps he was thinking about family and friends lost, dreams quashed, opportunities long gone...



## From the grassroots (continuation)

But then I remembered his smile. You see, whenever he's lying in the grass, soaking up the sunshine, he normally has a massive smile plastered to his face. Or he's sending a text message to some friends. Or he's lying beside his old copy of FHM.

Not everything in Rwanda is about the genocide. You can spend hours upon hours musing over what your friends were doing in spring of 1994, or who lived in your house, or why that building is still in ruins. You can wonder if someone is Hutu or Tutsi, if their parents are still alive, what province they are from. You can lose sleep, as one housemate has done, wondering if anyone died in our house. You can let the genocide pervade your thoughts in and about Rwanda.

But for me, at least, this would be forced, unnatural and not in line what everyone else in this country is doing. My friends in Rwanda are studying for exams. They're not worrying about the fact that they are two years older than their Western colleagues because their education was put on hold. My friends are going on vacation. They aren't meditating on how many people were or were not killed everywhere they go. My friends are working for themselves and their communities. They aren't human fortresses, absolved of any desire to make their world a better place.

My friends are laughing, singing, joking, dancing, studying, eating, spitting, playing, cursing, drinking, swimming, betting, and hoping. They are enigmas, frustrating and inspiring me at the same time. My portrayal of Rwanda is more idyllic than any country can ever be. But I hope to uproot from your minds the notion that this beautiful country is synonymous with the ugly notion of genocide.

I think Rwandans are friendly, but reserved. I think their garments are painted with duller colours than the clothing worn by their neighbours. I think they grasp painfully tightly to the notion of 'progress'. I think they aim to be different from Africa, and yet they so clearly desire to be a part of it. The genocide's legacy can be found wherever you look—even in these simple statements.

But there is a time and a place to look for it. When I remember Rwanda years from now, I can tell you, the first thing I remember will not be genocide. It will be the hills. The rolling, endless, precise beauty of the 'Land of a Thousand Hills'. I hope, when you think of Rwanda, you won't think of 'Hotel Rwanda'. If you must think of that particular story as representative of this country, think of it instead as 'Hotel des Milles Collines', its real—if less dramatic and Oscar-friendly—name.

I don't know if I am an 'Africa person' or an 'Asia person', if such a thing exists. But I am beginning to think, maybe I'm a 'Rwanda person'.

Sarah Wolfe  
EPN Intern at the Rwandan Bee-keeping Project



## My Poverty Plan Campaign

Contribute to EPN's **My Poverty Plan** campaign! Send in a short video (approximately 1 minute) on how you think poverty can be alleviated.

Contact [alternativemedia@endpovertynow.ca](mailto:alternativemedia@endpovertynow.ca) for more information.



## Amnesty International Continues to Ask for Human Dignity by David Rozon

This year, Amnesty International's (AI) annual report began with a quotation from 1948's Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR): "All people are born free and equal, in dignity and rights." The use of this quotation reaffirms the Declaration, while simultaneously, albeit subtly, asking the members of the UN whether they have ensured the Declaration's ratification. In fact, AI's annual report of human rights conditions across the globe for 2008 categorically affirms that "dignity and rights" have yet to become a reality, even sixty years after the UDHR was signed. AI's position suggests, unsurprisingly, that the escalating global food crisis and rampant increase in poverty are the main factors diminishing human rights conditions: the more impoverished a region is, the greater the human rights abuses.

Amnesty International is an independent organization (economically and governmentally) that researches, monitors and assesses the state of human rights across the globe, probing individual regions based on the rights dictated by the UDHR. They measure everything from freedom of expression and association to the right to physical and mental integrity. The scope of AI's annual reports and the criteria that produces them have to be taken into consideration – they give a human rights overview of every country based on a set of laws that are recognized by only a portion of the globe's population. Therefore, the perspective doesn't shift according to region, and it can only account for so much. Nevertheless, this year's report highlights the prevalent scenario for 2008 – the violent restraint of demonstrations against rising food prices and shortages, low wages, and the general cost of living.

Access to basic resources and food supplies have been hampered by armed conflict, political tensions and industrial enterprises across the globe, ensuing in violent demonstrations that have been the source of continuous abuse. AI claims that protestors in Mali, Zimbabwe and Cameroon were incarcerated without legal process or even killed by gunfire for demonstrating against rising prices and/or the manipulation of access to food and water sources. In the Americas, mining, forestry and agro-industry have continuously been detrimental to indigenous peoples. Private interest in Central and South America has shown no respect for international and domestic laws. In Columbia, indigenous peoples living in areas of economic interest were often harassed and even attacked. In Bolivia, *campesinos* (peasant farmers) have been killed in violent protests against their government's actions. The sharp contrast between the rich and poor has undoubtedly exacerbated tensions in the Americas. As reported by the UN Development Programme, Latin America "remained the most unequal region in the world" in 2008, with "more than 70 million people ... living on less than US\$1 a day ...." Similarly, North Korea saw hunger and starvation in 2008 at a magnitude unseen for over a decade. Additionally, because of diplomatic tensions with South Korea and the West, the North refused to accept assistance to alleviate the crisis. AI also reports that North Koreans captured trying to cross the border into China for supplies were imprisoned and even tortured. Likewise, Myanmar authorities are accused of failing to assist the approximately two million survivors of Cyclone Nargis, by both refusing international aid and restricting survivors from accessing food and water. Finally, ongoing wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Gaza have continuously prevented millions from basic necessities such as housing, food, and medical assistance.

Amidst diplomatic tensions and war, the term "anti-terrorism" has been repeatedly used to justify unlawful imprisonment, torture, harassment and suppression of oppositional political parties, intellectuals, protestors and media. Governments across the globe have routinely used euphemisms like "subversives" and "security threat" to justify breaches in international and domestic laws. For example, Amnesty International has accused President Mugabe's government of Zimbabwe of the false incarceration and murder of human rights activists, union representatives, and members of the political opposition. In Chile, a prosecutor sought to use an anti-terrorism law against protestors for the indigenous Mapuche claims. In the US, legislation has been mixed. While the US Supreme Court voted that the death penalty was not in violation of the US constitution despite strong opposition from the legal community, the Court still refuted the Bush administration's arguments that Guantánamo prisoners should be denied their right to *habeas corpus* (to be brought before a public court to decide whether one's detention is lawful). However, President Barack Obama's recent move to omit holding CIA operatives legally responsible for torture supports AI's accusation that governments are not pursuing justice against human rights violators. For instance, when public apologies and court hearings took place in 2008, they were for crimes perpetrated twenty or thirty years ago – with apologies lacking substantial retribution or reparation. In fact, although a US Senate committee has concluded that senior officials in the US government had "redefined the law

***"Access to basic resources and food supplies have been hampered by armed conflict, political tensions and industrial enterprises across the globe..."***



## Amnesty International Continues to Ask for Human Dignity (continuation)

to create the appearance of [...] legality” in regards to detainees in Guantánamo, very little in the way of justice has been sought. Notwithstanding the actions of the International Criminal Court in 2008 (the ICC is now pursuing charges against Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir for genocide), AI assumes that most governments have “perpetuated a culture of impunity.” Consequently, vulnerable groups – the impoverished or marginalized because of race, ethnicity, association or gender – have been easy targets for exploitation, harassment and violence. Industries like human trafficking and prostitution remain a serious threat to impoverished women and children across the globe specifically because these industries prey on people who have no recourse to public institutions for security.

The implication drawn from AI’s report is that impunity and suppression are coextensive where increasing poverty leads to protest and opposition. Tragically, AI does not offer much on the positive side; however the very presence of their report – a document representing countless interviews, witness accounts, activist intervention and research – stands as a declaration of the violence and injustice that would otherwise go undocumented. Amnesty International’s report spreads awareness and speaks on behalf of those who are not granted a politically or legally recognized voice. Please take the time to browse [their webpage](#) where you can attain a full copy of their 2009 annual report.

## A Thirsty Planet by Deni Abdullahi

The fight against poverty and hunger has been underway for a long time, but we are facing a new challenge; one that is threatening the human population as we know it. More specifically, a lack of clean water is the source of nearly a billion deaths every year. The victims of this epidemic are scattered over more than a hundred countries and the need for clean water is increasing due to population growth and the rise of industrialization.



The second most populated country in the world after China, India’s population has been struck with the looming issue that is water scarcity. More than 20 percent of the nation’s population lives under the poverty line. Thus, most lack access to both clean water and basic sanitation. However, the concern for water does not limit itself to developing countries. For example, Australia is currently facing the largest drought the country has ever known. Farmers are being forced off their land, and rivers such as the lower Murray River are being declared unsafe. In addition, lakes are drying, leaving large and mostly empty spaces where there was once a great source of water.

Although 70 percent of our planet is made out of water, 97.5 percent of that water is saltwater. Consequently, only 2.5 percent is available to the 6 billion individuals on earth. Contrary to general misapprehension, water scarcity exists in areas where rainfall is abundant. World-wide communities require proper means to purify and conserve clean water in order to meet the increasing demand for safe water. This unavailability forces individuals to rely on contaminated sources of water, thereby increasing the risk of water-related diseases such as cholera and typhoid fever.

### The 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum

The global water crisis has yet to reach its height, but we are already witnessing its effects on developing nations. Today, the lack of clean water threatens millions of lives and this matter was the subject of discussion in the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum held in Istanbul this past year.

Organized by the World Water Council, this event is the largest water related convention and serves to highlight the severity of the global water crisis. Held every three years, the 2009 edition gathered more than 30,000 participants from over a hundred countries, including heads of states and other high level representatives from various intergovernmental organizations. This brings the organization closer to the achievement of their goals, one of which is political commitment from those in high rank positions. By raising exposure to global water issues, members of the World Water Council hope to find solutions to the global water crisis.

To learn more about this issue visit:  
[Worldwatercouncil.org](http://Worldwatercouncil.org)  
[Worldwaterforum5.org](http://Worldwaterforum5.org)



## Addressing the problem of third-world poverty...

### In Canada? By Nick Bond

*The first step to self-improvement is admitting we have a problem.*

We've got a few issues to sort out here in Canada... but what country doesn't, right? Show me any nation with a perfect economy, no crime, and a healthy medical system and I'll show you a John Travolta movie made since Pulp Fiction that's not a resounding disappointment. That aside, the main problem facing Canada is a little more disturbing than most of us would care to admit. It lies in an increasingly noticeable gap between what we say and what we do with respect to our multicultural identity. The idea that opportunities for growth and success should be denied to a group of Canadians simply because of their ethnic background flies in the face of one of the key traits of Canadiana, but it's happening. Today. In a big way. The only way to begin to meaningfully address this issue is to learn about it, because as was wisely conveyed to me in a fortune cookie I opened last week, "*Ignorance never settles a question.*"

In our brief history, humans have done some pretty horrific things to each other for trivial reasons such as differences in beliefs or appearances. The Holocaust, ethnic cleansing in Rwanda, and the violence in Kenya following its 2007 presidential elections all readily come to mind. Another would undoubtedly be the Apartheid policies of South Africa between 1948 and 1994. During this time, the South African government created and strictly enforced policies of racial segregation primarily directed against the country's Black population. This much you probably already knew. What you maybe did not know was that Canada – our land of True Patriot Love – helped.

Ron Bourgeault, a prolific writer on the subject, sums up our participation nicely, saying "*it is significant that South Africa came to Canada at different times since the Boer War asking and getting permission to study the Canadian system by which Indian people were controlled and managed separately from the politically dominant white population. South Africa took what it needed and applied it to its own situation: first to segregation, and after the Second World War to apartheid.*"

The purveyors of one of the most blatantly racist policies in the history of our planet got some helpful hints on segregating entire communities of people from the Government of Canada. This is not to say that Apartheid and Canada's reservation system are one and the same, however. Among other things, the motivations behind the two were different (though there are varying opinions on just how different). In South Africa, the original thought was that Black people in their 'homelands' (the equivalent of what we call reservations) would be able to provide the country with cheap labour. Here in Canada, reserves were set aside to move Aboriginal people onto small tracts of land to make way for a European expansion plan. Though the motivations differed, the living conditions for both group were very similar.

Like their South African counterparts, Aboriginals' lives on the vast majority of Canada's reserves are defined by acute poverty, social upheaval, violence, and a severe lack of economic growth or opportunity. Because economic activity on reserves is severely limited by the Indian Act, Canada's on-reserve Indigenous people are left with little choice but to rely on the minimal support they get from our Federal government.

The website for the Assembly of First Nations cites a number of disturbing statistics:

- On average, an Aboriginal man's lifespan is more than seven years shorter than a non-Aboriginal man, and an Aboriginal woman has a lifespan more than five years shorter than her non-Aboriginal counterpart
- The suicide rate on reserves is twice that of the national average. It is the leading cause of death among Indigenous peoples aged 10 – 24.
- 12 percent of all Aboriginal communities have to boil their drinking water, and approximately one quarter of on-reserve water treatment systems pose a high risk to human health.
- Core funding to support on-reserve housing has remained unchanged for over 20 years.
- About 70 percent of Aboriginal students going to on-reserve schools will never get a high school diploma.



## Addressing the problem of third-world poverty...In Canada? (continuation)

It is important to underscore that these people, living in what has often been described as Third World living conditions, are lifelong residents of one of the healthiest, most progressive, and economically robust nations on the planet. Adding insult to injury is the fact that Canada espouses boldly to the rest of the world that multiculturalism is a defining feature of our great country. But how is it that we can say these things when Aboriginal people are subjected to their current living conditions?

If you believe in the core values of Canada, then it is critical that we commit to understanding the root causes of poverty among Aboriginals, understand the effect that it is having on the population today, and start working towards progressive and inclusive solutions that will ultimately lead to a better future.

I recently spoke with Ellen Gabriel, President of the Quebec Native Women's Association, for her thoughts on why such a gap exists in the quality of life between Canada's Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal communities. The answers she gave led to the conclusion that there is not one, but a multitude of causes. Residential schools, for example, played an enormous role in the way they decimated the Indigenous community's social structures and "deeply affected the psyche of the community" by stripping them of their pride in their culture and identity. Gabriel went on to mention that the loss of parenting skills and cultural identity that defined the era of residential schools actually continues today due to the disproportionately high rate of Aboriginal children being taken from their homes and placed in foster care.

One of the most pressing issues from Gabriel's point of view though, is that there is a marked lack of sensitivity from the non-Aboriginal community about the struggles faced by Aboriginals. Getting Aboriginals themselves to work towards the improvement of their situation is a challenge in itself, but real change cannot occur unless there is wider public awareness and empathy for the struggles of Canada's Indigenous people. Our lack of sensitivity, she says, comes directly from a lack of knowledge about how things came to be the way they are.

"Canadians need to learn their history," explains Gabriel. "Why is it other Canadians can benefit and grow in a healthy way, yet if we don't conform and assimilate then we're viewed as bad people? We have as much right as anyone else in this world to protect our identity, assert our language, and practice our customs."

Aboriginal people were given little choice but to move to reserves when Canada was being settled by Europeans. It became a question of lose your land, culture, and identity, or keep some semblance of it on a reserve but give up your economic autonomy and agree to live under the paternal rule of the Government of Canada. Though the offer from Canada was originally presented in good faith to help Indigenous people preserve their land and culture, it quickly evolved into the one-sided relationship that exists today.

Says Gabriel, "The one thing that the Canadian population doesn't see is that we have no choices." In order to hold onto their identity at all, she says Aboriginal people are forced "to take what the government gives us." And unfortunately, it's not that much.

"People are still hung up on whether we pay taxes or not and thinking that we have more rights than any other people in Canada, when it's actually the opposite." Gabriel goes on to point out that in many cases, budgets – such as that for child welfare – have not increased since the late-1980s. Furthermore, education budgets have not substantially increased since the mid-1990s. How are communities that are limited by law in their economic activity supposed to grow when investment in their children is so stagnant?

It's an uphill battle to be sure, and contrary to our government's policies to date, it is not something money alone can solve. It will most likely require wholesale changes in our attitudes and approach. The good news is that while there is a lot of work to be done to help Canada's Aboriginal communities, there are also a lot of easy things we can do to help. The best place to start is by acknowledging the past, and without assigning blame or responsibility, recognize the fact that any proactive move to bring attention to and solutions for their struggle would be time and money very well spent.

Says Gabriel about moving these issues forward, "it's up to us as Indigenous people primarily, but with all Canadians we need more openness - more truth. Reconciliation that's based on honesty, integrity and respect. Not just words on paper. We need to have real human being to human being discussions."

"Future generations will remember us by whether we gave up or not. We have to try. I have to remain optimistic in spite of all the odds against us."



## Book and Movie Suggestions

### **Darwin's Nightmare (DVD)**

**Hubert Sauber, Austria, 2005**

In the 1960's, a predator fish was introduced into Tanzania's Lake Victoria, part of a scientific experiment that all but wiped out the lake's native fish entirely. The result was a transformation of the region from a relatively peaceful fishing community into a devastated society plagued by poverty and violence. Director Hubert Sauber follows the lives of people strangled into a trade system that has completely reduced economic possibilities in the region while providing a cover for smuggling weapons into Africa.

Suggested by David Rozon

### **The Garden**

**(In theatres June 2009)**

**Scott Hamilton Kennedy, USA, 2008**

After the devastating L.A. riots of 1992, some citizens started a community garden in South Central (about 14 acres, the largest of its kind in the U.S.) as a way of bringing a sense of harmony and peace to the community. *The Garden*, however, finds this urban sanctuary threatened to be demolished by L.A. County. Through the humble symbol of an urban garden, director Scott Hamilton Kennedy offers a riveting view of poor immigrants fighting for their livelihood against unscrupulous development.

Suggested by David Rozon

### **Working Man's Death (DVD)**

**Michael Glawogger, Germany, 2005**

This documentary runs around the working conditions of 6 specific jobs or fields that take place in different parts of the world. With beautiful shots and imagery, this movie shows us the bonds that bring the workers together and that permits them to survive these conditions. A movie worth seeing for the imagery and your general culture, one that demonstrates how beauty and laughter can be present in almost any conditions.

Suggested by Laura Nhem, EPN Newsletter Officer

### **Food Inc.**

**(In theatres June 2009)**

**Robert Kenner, USA, 2008**

A new documentary by Robert Kenner explores the state of food in America. Covering an array of issues – factory farming, genetic engineering, food labelling – Kenner first paints a bleak picture of the food industry, with corruption and exploitation at the fore. However, the focus turns towards consumer practice, education and awareness as powerful ways individuals can alter legislation and farming practices.

Suggested by David Rozon

### **The World According to Monsanto (DVD)**

**Marie-Monique Robin, France, 2008**

Marie-Monique Robin's provocative documentary exposes Monsanto's effort to legally own all food sources across the globe (Monsanto is the leading corporation in biotechnology, specifically in genetically modified organisms – GMO's). Traveling through four continents, Robin shows how Monsanto has bribed politicians, members of the FDA and Health Canada to ignore test results on its products as well as compromise food sovereignty and biodiversity throughout the world.

Suggested by David Rozon

### **Our Book and Movie Suggestion section, YOU CAN HELP!**

Have you read a book or seen a movie or documentary that talks about a poverty related issue and want to recommend it? Anyone can send us a their suggestions with a short description of what it's about! You can email it to us at [newsletter@endpovertynow.ca](mailto:newsletter@endpovertynow.ca).

Don't forget to include the title, the name of the author, director and/or producer and the year it was released. Also, please let us know if you want us to include your name!



## How can you help End Poverty Now?

EPN is a network of hard-working dedicated volunteers that provide and contribute to the following resources/campaigns. Take initiative in poverty relief through your contribution in the following areas!

### 1. Grassroots Projects

#### *Start a Grassroots Project!*

Recommend a grassroots project/organization for EPN to sponsor. We are always looking for initiatives in Canada and abroad that we collaborate with in addressing poverty issues. Email your ideas to Alysha at [projects@endpovertynow.ca](mailto:projects@endpovertynow.ca).

#### *Donate to support a project!*

70% of EPN's budget goes towards grassroots projects; a large part of our budget is provided by individuals such as yourself and your support is greatly appreciated. To donate, see <http://www.endpovertynow.ca/donate>.

#### *Intern at an EPN project site locally or abroad!*

EPN provides **internships** year-round at our grassroots projects locally and abroad. See [www.endpovertynow.ca/internships/](http://www.endpovertynow.ca/internships/) for our current opportunities.

### 2. Education

#### *Implement EPN's Curriculum in your classroom!*

#### **"Your Classroom, Your World: Poverty 101"**

Teach a "Poverty 101" lesson plan developed by EPN in your junior high or high school classroom. Learn more about this curriculum at <http://www.endpovertynow.ca/schooloutreach/>

#### *Learn about Poverty!*

- View the latest headlines with our **Poverty in the News** page. [www.endpovertynow.ca/povertyinthenews/](http://www.endpovertynow.ca/povertyinthenews/)
- Read our **Annual Journal, "Means to an End"** to be released in September 2009 for academic articles on poverty and development in the world today.
- Read EPN's **Monthly Newsletter** for organizational updates, debates around poverty. [www.endpovertynow.ca/newsletter/](http://www.endpovertynow.ca/newsletter/)
- Listen to EPN's **Monthly Podcasts** for interviews, news, debates and likewise. [www.endpovertynow.ca/podcasts/](http://www.endpovertynow.ca/podcasts/)
- Discover what young people across the globe are doing to address poverty through reading **blogs** written by interns and volunteers from a variety of international organizations.
- Use EPN's **Alternative Media Resource Page** to view numerous videos, campaigns, and ideas about poverty alleviation. [www.endpovertynow.ca/resources/](http://www.endpovertynow.ca/resources/)

#### *Share your opinion!*

- Contribute to EPN's **My Poverty Plan** campaign through sending in a short video (approximately 1 minute) on how you think poverty can be alleviated. Contact [alternativemedia@endpovertynow.ca](mailto:alternativemedia@endpovertynow.ca) for more information.
- Join our **facebook group** and start a discussion topic.
- Participate in our podcasts, newsletters, campaigns or similar.

#### *Write About Poverty!*

Submit your research to the **2010 journal** by emailing [journal@endpovertynow.ca](mailto:journal@endpovertynow.ca). Call for submissions will be in February 2010. More details to come!

Write an article or monthly articles for EPN's Monthly Newsletter. Contact [newsletter@endpovertynow.ca](mailto:newsletter@endpovertynow.ca) for more information.



## How can you help End Poverty Now? (continuation)

### *Educate Others by Providing Materials!*

Contact [pr@endpovertynow.ca](mailto:pr@endpovertynow.ca) for pamphlets, cards, guides, newsletters or one of our many other **poverty resource materials**.

### 3. InReach

#### *Fundraise for End Poverty Now!*

**Host an event** at your school/community centre to sponsor an education initiative or grassroots project. Contact [internal@endpovertynow.ca](mailto:internal@endpovertynow.ca) for support.

#### *Approach corporate sponsors, businesses, friends and/or family for support!*

Use our **sponsorship package** in this process. Contact [sponsorship@endpovertynow.ca](mailto:sponsorship@endpovertynow.ca) for more information.

#### *Start a Chapter Group!*

Start a **Chapter Group** in your school or university and implement EPN's tri-pillar approach in your community. Contact [internal@endpovertynow.ca](mailto:internal@endpovertynow.ca) for more information or see [www.endpovertynow.ca/chapters/](http://www.endpovertynow.ca/chapters/)

#### *Buy and EPN t-shirt!*

All products are "sweat-shop free" and the lowest price possible. See [www.endpovertynow.ca/t-shirt/](http://www.endpovertynow.ca/t-shirt/)

#### *Volunteer!*

- EPN's **head office** is located in Montreal and there are always opportunities to become involved in our day-to-day operations.
- There are also several **Chapter groups** across Canada that you can contribute to. These being University of British Columbia, Guelph University and McGill University. Is there no EPN chapter near you? Start one (see above).

#### *Become an End Poverty Now member!*

- Receive all EPN resources and updates and have access to EPN's several initiatives across Canada. <http://www.endpovertynow.ca/membership>
- Join our mailing list at <http://endpovertynow.ca/listserv/>

## End Poverty Now is hiring!

### **Public Relations**

The Public Relations Officer shall be responsible for establishing the Corporation's communications and marketing strategies with the local community and the public at large. This will enhance the EPN's participation and position within the community by building and maintaining sustainable relations with the public, government agencies, news media, and other affected parties. This will also include synchronizing the design of EPN materials.

### **Webmaster**

This officer will be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of End Poverty Now's website. Experience in html and web design is not necessary, but is an asset. There will be opportunities for graphic design and other additions to the website as well.

Please email your resume, a brief description of intent, and your position of interest to [apply@endpovertynow.ca](mailto:apply@endpovertynow.ca).

### **Special thanks**

Many thanks go to the EPN team who have been of great help in making this newsletter!

Thank you to our writers, to our intern Sarah Wolfe and editor Nina McCurdy.