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## What's New with End Poverty Now!

### What's new at EPN by Jennifer Sault

Welcome to **End Poverty Now's December Newsletter, highlighting the issues surrounding HIV and AIDS.** December 1st is world AIDS day. More than 25 million have died from AIDS since 1981. It is an epidemic that has irreplaceable consequences on the economy and in the welfare of families and communities in our world. We encourage you to take a moment to learn more about this issue and the efforts that are currently being undertaken by organizations and governments around the globe.

Also, as it is December, the **holidays are fast approaching!** All of the staff and volunteers of EPN would like to take this opportunity to wish you the best of the holiday season!

### NEW WEBSITE

EPN is celebrating the **launch of our new website!** We thank Johnson Fung and Philip Mark for their tireless efforts which have made our site possible. It can be found at [www.endpovertynow.ca](http://www.endpovertynow.ca)

### EPN JOURNAL, MEANS TO AN END

The new site comes at perfect timing for our organization as we are proud to announce the debut of our **first annual academic journal, Means to an End.** It encompasses a wide range of scholarly articles on numerous issues behind poverty ranging from child poverty in Canada to international refugee rights and many more. Our journal is being mailed to universities and libraries across Canada and can be found on our website. For a donation of \$10.00 or more, we can mail the printed version to you.

We are also seeking articles for our next journal to be released in the spring of 2010. The theme is Global Health. Contact Neesha at [journal@endpovertynow.ca](mailto:journal@endpovertynow.ca) for more information.

## 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).



## What's New with End Poverty Now! (Continued)

### EPN PODCASTS

Partnered with our new site, as well, is the **re-launching of EPN's monthly podcasts**. The first podcast can be found online and will continue throughout 2010! We would like to thank C.K.U.T. for their support in future EPN podcasts and we will be using their facilities to do this. Also, EPN podcasts will be integrated into C.K.U.T.'s monthly programming. To listen to their station, tune into 90.3FM in the Montreal area or listen to them online at <http://www.ckut.ca/>.

### COMPETITION

For our future podcasts, we are hosting a **podcast competition**, requiring your creative ideas! Essentially, we require a 10 to 30 second musical introduction that will be used for each one of our future podcasts. Send your entry to Jason at [AlternativeMedia@endpovertynow.ca](mailto:AlternativeMedia@endpovertynow.ca) by June 15<sup>th</sup> for a chance to win EPN t-shirts, water bottles, a spot on our February podcast and the honour of knowing that thousands will hear your contribution to EPN every month.

### GRASSROOTS PROJECTS

As for our **Grassroots Projects**, we are happy to continue our work with the Rwanda Village Concept Project in the establishment of a bee-keeping initiative, the *International Association for Transformation* in the implementation of a Backyard Gardening concept in addition to our work with the *Projet Autochtone du Quebec*, a homeless shelter in Montreal. It is due to the exceptional efforts of these partnering organizations that poverty alleviation is being actualized in numerous communities both in Canada and abroad.

For more information, visit [www.endpovertynow.ca](http://www.endpovertynow.ca)

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Sault  
Executive Director



## Poverty in the News by Carina Bleuer

### **“Radical change in HIV/AIDS thinking”**

The President of South Africa plans to be tested in public for HIV in December. This is a sharp break from the days when the government suggested eating garlic as a remedy for AIDS. More people die from HIV/AIDS related causes than anywhere else in the world. The President’s public HIV test is part of a dramatic expansion in HIV testing in South Africa.

– Globe and Mail

### **“First Nations Conference exposes Canada’s ‘hidden epidemic’ of HIV”**

Infection rates continue to rise among aboriginal women in Canada. A conference was held in Regina, Saskatchewan last month in efforts to ‘put a face to the epidemic of HIV’

– The Vancouver Sun

### **“U.S. overturns ban on HIV-positive visitors”**

A ban that has prevented thousands of HIV-positive people from entering the United States since 1987 is set to be lifted early next year.

– Sky News

### **“Poor Women bear climate burden”**

A report from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has warned that women in developing countries are the most vulnerable to climate change because they do most of the agricultural work.

– Oxfam UK

Carina Bleuer  
Director of External Affairs  
[external@endpovertynow.ca](mailto:external@endpovertynow.ca)

Keep yourself informed by checking our Poverty in the News section on Twitter where Valerie posts links on the latest poverty related news!

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

## From the Grassroots:

### **From the Grassroots: Bee-Keeping Project in Rwanda**

**by Alysha Kassam**

Since early 2008, End Poverty Now has been working with the Rwanda Village Concept Project (RVCP) on a bee-keeping program. RVCP is a student run organisation at the National University of Rwanda, in the Southern Province of the country.



## From the Grassroots (Continued)

This bee-keeping project intends to help a Widow's Association: as a result of the program, the women are able to earn an income, improve their living standards, and care for both their own and their relatives' children. Additionally, workshops are offered with the aim of helping the women develop leadership, management and proposal writing skills.

The initial phase of the project was to create a bee-keeping cooperative. The remaining part of the project is to finance necessary resources and materials to ensure the project's growth and sustainability. Since the beginning of this initiative, thirty bee-hives have been built and fifty women from the Association have been trained.

Since the beginning of this joint venture, EPN has sent two interns to oversee the project's progress and provide assistance with its development. Although the partnership between EPN and RVCP is due to end next spring, this project will hopefully serve as an example to other parts of Rwanda.



Summer 2009 – “A cooperative member extracts honey during harvesting”



## **A Community-based Approach to Healthcare: Donna Barry speaks about Partners in Health during McGill AIDS Week by Stephanie Moynihan**

On November 20, Donna Barry, Advocacy and Policy Director of Partners in Health (PIH), delivered her keynote address as part of World AIDS Week at McGill. Barry was flown in from Boston to discuss the successes and failures of various HIV/AIDS projects worldwide. Her talk, entitled “HIV/AIDS – treating the whole person”, centered around the “sobering” state of the global HIV pandemic (33 million people are currently infected), and PIH’s initiatives to help alleviate this crisis, as well as treat other pressing health care issues.

PIH, Barry explained, is a non-profit health care organization based in Boston, Massachusetts, dedicated to providing comprehensive medical care to the underprivileged – predominantly in Haiti, Peru, Russia and Rwanda. Their outreach focuses on a community-based treatment model: they involve the entire community they work with, and partner with local organizations to help strengthen the health care system in that area on a long-term basis.

With 7,000 new HIV infections per day, Barry outlined the crucial importance of investing in HIV prevention – but not, she specified, at the expense of any treatment programs. She also highlighted the recent WHO study showing HIV is not only infecting increasingly more women than men, but is now the leading cause of death among women of reproductive age (15-44), currently accounting for 1 in 5 deaths worldwide.

What’s worse, Barry noted, was the lack of adequate health care offered to these women, particularly the poor, unmarried, uneducated or socially marginalized. They’re often treated as nothing more than mothers, and while prenatal care is often available to reduce mother-to-child HIV-transmission, other services such as mental health, domestic and sexual violence support, and screening and treatment for cervical cancer are rarely in place.

Barry refuses to lose sight of a positive outlook, however, and maintains an unwavering faith in PIH’s solidarity approach to health care, which also provides local community workers with the training and wages they need to keep progress in motion.

Quoting Nelson Mandela’s call to make poverty history in 2005, Barry brought her speech – as well as World AIDS Week at McGill – to a close.

“Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings. And overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. While poverty persists, there is no true freedom.”

This year, World AIDS Day is December 1<sup>st</sup> 2009.



## Universal Children's Day

by Alicia Bruce

November 20<sup>th</sup> is an important day for children everywhere. It is recognized as Universal Children's day in countries all around the world. Two-thousand and nine will commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> year since the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child as well as the 20<sup>th</sup> year since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Here in Canada, our country made a commitment in 1991 by ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child to ensure all children be treated with dignity and respect.<sup>1</sup> Canada's specific goals relating to this commitment, as listed in the 2004 document, *A Canada Fit for Children*, include supporting families and strengthening communities, promoting healthy lives, protection from harm and promoting education and learning.<sup>2</sup> When children are deprived from any of life's basic necessities, it is nearly impossible for them to reach their full potential. Canada's commitment to promoting the active and important role of children within their communities should lead to more opportunities for children to grow both physically and in their understanding of the world around them through education.

UNICEF acknowledges that of the eight United Nations Millennium Development Goals, six are child-centered; End Poverty & Hunger, Universal Education, Gender Equality, Child Health, Maternal Health and Combat HIV/AIDS. The other two goals, Environmental Sustainability and Global Partnership, when met, will provide substantial improvements in the lives of children.<sup>3</sup>

The amount of development focus placed on improving the lives of children only underlines their importance in our world. With proper care, children grow up to become world leaders, doctors, lawyers, teachers and activists among many other things, but without this nurture now, the current plight of our world will only grow with the next generation.

Our society regards any acts of injustice to children as particularly heinous. Yet it is estimated that worldwide, there are 245.5 million children actively involved in child labour, of which 170.5 million are engaged in hazardous work and another 8.4 million are involved in unconditional worst forms of child labour. The last category includes trafficked children as well as children involved in forced & bonded labour, armed conflict, prostitution & pornography and illicit activities.<sup>4</sup> In 2007, 72 million children around the world were denied the right to education while another 9 million children did not even reach primary-education age, dying from largely preventable causes.<sup>5</sup> These numbers indicate that there is still a lot of work to be done to improve the condition of children everywhere another 9 million children did not even reach primary-education age, dying from largely preventable causes.<sup>5</sup> These numbers indicate that there is still a lot of work to be done to improve the condition of children everywhere.



## Universal Children's Day (Continued)

Although Universal Children's Day is meant as a day to celebrate the joy that children bring to the world, we should remember that it also serves as a more solemn purpose—to bring awareness to the Convention of the Rights of The Child and promote equality and education initiatives aimed at improving their lives, because our future depends on the investment we put in our children today.

### References:

Public Health Agency of Canada (<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncd-jne/ncd-eng.php>)

A Canada Fit For Children

Universal Children's Day ([http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/children\\_day/](http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/children_day/))

IPEC Every Child Counts: New Global Estimates on Child Labour

UN Millennium Development Goals

## I AM AIDS

by Carina Bleuer

Greetings. We have not yet been introduced but I will soon affect every aspect of your life, your family's and friend's lives, and the world as you know it. Our relationship may begin through needle exchanges, or through infected sexual partners. I can be passed onto your unborn baby. If you are a woman, we are four times more likely to meet. If you are a sex worker, injecting drug user, man who has sex with men, a prisoner, or a person living in sub-Saharan Africa, you are my prime target.

My goal is to attack slowly and stealthily. At first I will provide you with a typical fever. You will think you have caught a common cold, but you will soon find that I am significantly more potent. I will make your limbs ache, give you headaches, skin rashes, diarrhoea, and mouth ulcers. Various glands in your body will swell. Your symptoms will last for roughly two weeks. Then I will allow you to live five to eight years without a trace of sickness. But not to worry, I will never abandon you.

During those years I have been breaking down your immune system, leaving you susceptible to serious infections and disease. If you are part of the 20% of people who need treatment and have access to it, you can take numerous pills everyday for the rest of your life.





## I AM AIDS (Continued)

These pills come with their own side effects. You may experience nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, headaches, abdominal pains, insomnia, rash, tiredness, loss of appetite, hypersensitivity, peripheral neuropathy, blood disorders, pancreatitis, abnormal, dreams, impaired concentration, depression, psychosis, muscle pain, liver abnormalities, lipodystrophy, hyperbilirubinaemia, lactic acidosis and the list goes on. But keep in mind that it is possible for me to mutate and make these treatments ineffective.

### **Once I'm inside of you I can be slowed down, but never stopped.**

By the time that five to eight years have passed (or decades if you receive treatment), I will have gained full strength, leaving you vulnerable to disease. You *will* contract a terminal illness: tuberculosis, lymphoma, cervical cancer, anal carcinomas, Hodgkin's disease, Kaposi's sarcoma or some other malignancy.

### **At this point you may think the worst has already been realized, but my capacity to affect and destroy has not yet been spent.**

Once *you* have come to terms with me, it will be time for the people in your life to come to terms with me. This will not be an easy task. I am deeply stigmatized. In many communities I am associated with lifestyles that are perceived as deviant. This means your family may no longer want to have anything to do with you, your friends may gossip about you, you may be rejected by peers, coworkers, or even your partner. Some people may be ignorant to the modes of transmission and may fear infection. They will avoid you at all costs. Those who *want* to help you, may not know how. They may feel uncomfortable talking about me, or talking to you altogether. I have the power to ostracize you from society, to make you feel rejected. You are likely to face this discrimination everyday for the rest of your life.

Your employers may reject you and you may find yourself without a job. In this case, if you are the only income earner, you will be unable to support your family. When I finally take your life, your parents will be left without a son or daughter, your siblings without a sister or brother, your children without a mother or father. I can end not only your life but your family, friends, and community's lives. I have the power to bring everyone down with you.

I can impact every aspect of your life. I can crumble society as you know it. I am capable of killing off the labour force. I destroy human capital. I can cripple the economy. I am a multiple death sentence. I can bring your world to an end. Everywhere you turn I will be waiting.



## **I AM AIDS** (Continued)

Everyday I infect 14 000 people. Everyday I am spreading. Since 1981 I have killed 25 million people. Today I am living inside of approximately 40 million people, and I am killing each one. I infect a woman every 16 seconds. I kill a woman every 29 seconds. I am the leading cause of death among adults in Sub-Saharan Africa. I have left 18 million children orphaned and I leave one more orphaned every 14 seconds.

**I am Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.**

**I AM AIDS**

**AIDS affects everyone!**

**There is NO CURE. But I CAN be prevented and I WILL be defeated when the global community rises together to fight me once and for all!**

## **This month's featured event:**

### **Oxfam Canada presents: A night of Music and Awareness**

Where:

The Black Sheep Inn  
420 Riverside Drive  
Wakefield, Quebec

When: Tuesday Dec 8, 2009

Come and celebrate women's rights and initiatives to tackle violence, poverty, and HIV/AIDS. Oxfam Canada welcomes three women partner organizations in South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Toronto to speak about HIV/AIDS in their communities. Local artist Mighty Popo will also be playing.

Contact: [alichumat@oxfam.ca](mailto:alichumat@oxfam.ca) for more information



## How YOU can contribute to the newsletter:

End Poverty Now is always looking for articles to include in our monthly newsletters. We are looking for articles of about 1000 words long. It can be a story, an informational article, the profile of an organization or a person, etc. The possibilities for writers are very broad. If you are interested in writing an article for us or having something you already wrote published, the deadline for submitting your subject is the 1st of every month and the article should be sent by the 20th.

Also, there is a new **Book and Movie Suggestion** section of the newsletter. Therefore, if you have 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 short description (about 50 words) of what it is about. Don't forget to include the title, the name of the author, director and/or producer and the year it was released.

We are currently looking for volunteers who are willing to contribute regularly to the newsletter. Here are the positions that need to be filled:

- **In the Spotlight** section : The volunteer will need to write an article of about 300 words monthly about a person that is involved in the community. He/she will be responsible for doing the research and contacting the person.
- **Put this in your agenda** section : The volunteer will be responsible for finding different events (conferences, fund raising events, etc.) that are taking place across Canada so we can post in our newsletter. He/she will simply need to mention the name of the event, there website, the city and the date.
- **Editing**: The volunteer will take care of editing articles and/or various text.

Please contact us at [newsletter@endpovertynow.ca](mailto:newsletter@endpovertynow.ca) for more information.

## End Poverty Now is looking for your projects:

EPN is **currently seeking new local and international projects** to sponsor and partner with. If you have recommendations, please contact Alysha at:

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

### **Special thanks**

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

**Carina Bleuer**

**Director of External Affairs**