

# Annual Report

2004 - 2005



## International Institute for Child Rights and Development (IICRD)

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## *A Message from the Executive Director*



Dr. Cook with Vanessa Currie, IICRD Field Officer and Ganeshha (ASSEFA Senior Program Advisor) discussing the affect of the Tsunami with local fishermen in Chidambaram, Tamil Nadu, India

The year 2004 - 2005 has seen unique challenges and opportunities for breathing life into children's rights to enhance dignity and peace for children and their world. 2005 marks the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the inception of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The growing programmatic base of the IICRD exemplifies both the significant gains that have been made in promoting children's rights beyond ratification in regards to strengthening child rights in the lives of all children, as well as highlighting the significant challenges in making human rights a reality for the children who need them most.

This year has seen us strategically realign our programming streams to four key program areas:

- ◆ Children at Risk: Fostering Resilience to Protect Vulnerable Children
- ◆ Children as Partners: Engaging Children as Agents of Positive Change
- ◆ Children Reclaiming Culture: Drawing on the Strengths of Child Participation and Traditional Cultural Teachings
- ◆ Tools for Change: Creating a Culture of Children's Rights

These program streams reflects the unique "assets", or strengths, that IICRD contributes to build on present child rights strengths and fill gaps in implementing these rights in the most challenging circumstances.

An example of a child rights success is the IICRD "Growing Up in the Cities Canada" (GUIC.CA) project operating in Vancouver, Gatineau and Halifax. The GUIC project seeks to create greater social inclusion for young people aged 9 - 18 through participatory research fostering meaningful partnerships with municipal government policy makers and social planners. Similarly, the IICRD British Columbia Law Foundation research initiative addressing children's meaningful participation in family law decision making, focuses on a critical gap in realizing children's participation as articulated in CRC Article 12, as does the youth assets training that Stuart Hart and Derek Peterson have been leading with the BC Ministry of Child and Family Development (MCFD) across all five regions of the Province of BC. Suzanne Williams'

presentation to the Canadian Senate helped promote these examples of innovative implementation of children's rights at the national, provincial and local level.

The year has also witnessed unparalleled social upheaval for children brought about by the December 26 Asian Tsunami and I am glad to say that IICRD has been at the forefront of working to **directly support** affected children in Southern India, as well as working with partner non-governmental organizations to introduce a **systems approach** to develop sustainable community models of support for the vulnerable children in the context of sustainable community development and local governance. Finally, IICRD in applying a unique nature and culturally grounded approach to the Tsunami is helping introduce **innovative ideas** to breathe life into the spirit and letter of the CRC.

These are but a sample of the 14 or so IICRD projects on the go. Our various projects take us across Canada and to most regions of the world. Our actions directly impact the lives of thousands of children, their families and communities. Our immediate work with children serves to strengthen our ability to directly and systematically build child rights and development capacity with other NGO's, Universities and educational organizations, Governments, and the United Nations.

The work of 2005-2006 raises new challenges for us in developing and maintaining an operational base for the Institute that helps support our growing range of research, education and capacity building activities. In this regard we look forward to working closely with our Board, Staff, Associates and partners of all ages in **assessing** our unique strengths and challenges, **analyzing** present opportunities for future growth, and taking **action** in developing and implementing a operational plan for strategic programming over the next 5 years that keeps pace with the evolving global challenges for children.

I look forward to a year of expansion, learning, growth, consolidation, and meaningful partnership that help young and old move together in creating a culture of children's rights.

Philip Cook

Philip Cook

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 Executive Director  
 International Institute for Child Rights and Development  
 Centre for Global Studies,  
 University of Victoria

## ***IICRD Overview***

Children are more at risk and the world's problems are more complex than ever before. Yet there are increased opportunities to build creative partnerships with children to assure a better future for our collective world.

Since 1994 *The International Institute for Child Rights and Development (IICRD)* has been working on the front lines to support and promote the rights of the world's vulnerable children.

*IICRD* uses a unique "culturally grounded" approach that builds on the strengths of children, families, communities and their unique cultures. Within the framework of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), *IICRD* develops educational, research and capacity building tools and implements programs that reconnect, re-instill and recreate hope and possibility for children as participating members of the human family.

## ***Our Mission***

To enhance the capacity of individuals, organizations and governments to effectively use the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child to create peace, and dignity for children and our world.

## ***Our Work***

IICRD supports children as agents of positive change. We advance the quality of life and development of children and their societies through innovative education, research and capacity building that draws on the strengths of families, communities and cultures.

Specifically IICRD projects apply **Research, Education, and Capacity Building** to make a difference in children's lives in four thematic areas:

- ◆ **Children at Risk:** Fostering Resilience to Protect Vulnerable Children
- ◆ **Children as Partners:** Engaging Children as Agents of Positive Change
- ◆ **Children Reclaiming Culture:** Drawing on the Strengths of Child Participation and Traditional Cultural Teachings
- ◆ **Tools for Change:** Creating a Culture of Children's Rights

IICRD achieves this by:

- ◆ Working on the front lines of some of the greatest challenges for children;
- ◆ Engaging children and communities in individual and social development;
- ◆ Addressing social, emotional and other concerns faced by children that are not being met by other agencies;
- ◆ Reconnecting children to their human and natural world;
- ◆ Drawing on strengths of children, families, communities and cultures; and
- ◆ Re-instilling a sense of hope and possibility.

## ***IICRD's Current Projects***

All of IICRD's projects apply an integrated, developmental and strengths based approach to child rights. Our projects focus on the four thematic areas (*Children at Risk; Children as Partners; Children Reclaiming Culture; Tools for Change*) and impact the following areas to improve conditions for children and our world:

1. **Community programming;**
2. **Systems** that affect children's lives; and
3. **Innovative ideas** promoting good practices of healthy child development.

### ***Children at Risk:***

#### ***Fostering Resilience to Protect Vulnerable Children***

#### **Support for Tsunami Affected Children in Tamil Nadu, India**

IICRD is partnering with Save the Children Canada and a local Indian NGO founded 30 years ago by one of Ghandi's disciples, Association for Sarva Seva Farms (ASSEFA) in this CIDA/SAVE funded project. IICRD received \$ 317,500 over 2.5 years from Save the Children Canada and \$ 1,300 from Three on a Tree Society and Pender Islands School to focusing on:



- ◆ **Children's Development, Children's Rights and Psychosocial Support for Vulnerable Children**

##### ***General Training***

General training to ASSEFA staff, community anima understanding and supporting children's developme and children's recovery (healing) and resilience.



##### ***Nature Based Interventions***

Given the centrality of the natural world in causing the trauma, we will examine opportunities for nature based play and recreations programs, particularly those drawing on local ritual, custom and beliefs, in helping children rebuild their sense of trust and positive relationships with the natural world. (These may include art, music, gardening, and nature based youth leadership.)

##### ***Community Capacity Building for Vulnerable Children***

Helping NGO's, community leaders and local government reps, identify the most vulnerable children and allocate resources effectively and efficiently in ways that draw on local strengths using the triple "A" methodology.

- ◆ **Research and Evaluation**

Utilizing participatory research activities (Triple"A") to address issues of: assessing culturally grounded psychosocial well-being, child centered assessment and evaluation, nature based participatory research tools, culturally grounded research methods



ASSEFA School Mapping  
School Project Tamil Nadu, India

Philip completed the inception mission to Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu in January 2005. Team building and training of IICRD's field officer, Vanessa Currie took place in early May followed by the project start up and initial field training in June 2005. Project staff include: Philip Cook - Project lead and researcher, Michele Cook - Project manager, psychosocial trainer and training material development, Julian Norris - Nature based intervention consultant, Jan - Art based intervention consultant and Vanessa Currie - Field project officer - stationed in India for 1 year.

### **Circles of Care (South Africa): Community Support for Children Affected by HIV/AIDS**

The team has finishing the Final Report for the CIDA Protection Fund from which they received \$150,000 over 2 years. For a detailed report see: [web.uvic.ca/iicrd/graphics/COC%20CIDA%20Final%20Report.pdf](http://web.uvic.ca/iicrd/graphics/COC%20CIDA%20Final%20Report.pdf). IICRD in partnership with the Child and Youth Care Agency for Development (CYCAD) South Africa has also submitted another CIDA proposal for 1 year funding for 2005-6 with a stronger focus on local traditional governance and going to scale in the Free State. Suzanne visited the communities in March 2005 and witnessed some of the impact of this project in action. These included: a safe park, a fun and food program, a crèche, community gardens, and youth programs.

### **South East Asia Regional Cooperation in Human Development (SEARCH) Project**

IICRD in collaboration with Salasan/Geo-spatial and Four Worlds Development has just completed the inception mission on this 6 year, \$6 million CIDA funded project focusing on supporting Indigenous children in South East Asia at risk of migration and trafficking in Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia and East Timor. IICRD will be providing the Child Rights and strengths based/cultural expertise to the project.



Cambodian Children's Theatre Performance on Trafficking

### **Violence Against Children in the School Community: A Program of Cooperation in Related Research**

The International School Psychology Association (ISPA), Education International (EI), and International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) are carrying out an international study of the violence against children in the school community to provide information about important factors associated with the problem and possible solutions. This information will in turn contribute to the UN Secretary General's International Study on Violence Against Children.

IICRD, with Stuart Hart as the focal point, has been invited to assume responsibility for gathering relevant information internationally from children and youth and for organizing, analyzing and reporting findings. IICRD is planning to link this research to our CAP initiative with the involvement of Simon Jackson and PACT, and Brett Hinchliff (Child-Youth Participation Focal Point for the Study, and member of the NGO Advisory Panel for the Study).



## Culture of Peace Project

Hildebrand Productions in partnership with IICRD pitched "Peace" to the NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) and the Discovery Channel at the Banff Television Festival in June 2004 and won \$15,000 (US) to help make this series a reality. Production of the demo to be used for further fund raising has been completed and is being circulated with endorsements from musician Loreena Mc Kennitt.

## *Children as Partners: Engaging Children as Agents of Positive Change*

### Children as Partners (CAP) Website

In May, 2004 IICRD met with young people, representatives from Plan International, World Vision, Save the Children, UNICEF, ENDA, the Concerned for Working Children (CWC), CRIN, Child to Child Trust, CIDA, and PACT with respect to the possibility of collaborating on an initiative to further child participation. The initial idea for this collaboration began in August 2002 at IICRD's Children As Partners (CAP) sessions. The group decided in Spain that while no formal network should be established, there was a clear need for a hub of information on child participation. With the assistance of funding from CIDA, IICRD focused on addressing this need by developing a website that would act as such a hub and on August 4, 2004 [www.iicrd.org/cap](http://www.iicrd.org/cap) went live.

The website contains the latest news, research, publications, tools and other information on child participation, and was developed by Suzanne Williams (IICRD) in partnership with Justin



McElroy (PACT). Justin is a student at St. Michael's in Victoria who became involved in the CAP initiative through his attendance at IICRD's Children as Partners sessions in 2002. Input was also sought and provided by several people including representatives from the CAP partner organizations who attended the August 2002 CAP sessions or the 2004 Spain meeting. Special thanks must be given to Paul Crossley and Olivier Bouton from iOpen who served as the technical team to bring the site to life.

The site receives on average of over 200 independent visitors each day from around the world. According to the online survey visitors include young people, academics, front line workers, NGO employees, government representatives and consultants. The top 20 countries of the most recent visitors are:

- |                   |                 |                |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. United States  | 8. South Africa | 15. Norway     |
| 2. France         | 9. Italy        | 16. Thailand   |
| 3. Canada         | 10. Czechia     | 17. Bangladesh |
| 4. United Kingdom | 11. Sweden      | 18. Spain      |
| 5. India          | 12. Germany     | 19. China      |
| 6. Australia      | 13. Switzerland | 20. Tanzania   |
| 7. Netherlands    | 14. Nigeria     |                |

Comments received to date about the website include:

- ◆ *I want to congratulate you and your colleagues on the CAP website-it is excellent.*
- ◆ *This helps us to know what is going on with children around the world.*
- ◆ *It would provide us to disseminate our experiences, lesson learned and challenges lie ahead in realizing children's right to participation and also would give us opportunity to learn from other like minded agencies in this regard.*
- ◆ *It keeps me informed in upcoming events and covers new ground.*

Go to [www.iicrd.org/cap](http://www.iicrd.org/cap) to learn more.

### **Partnerships: Adults and Children Together (PACT)**

PACT, the Canadian youth organization inspired by the IICRD Children as Partners Initiative recently received \$15,000 from Toronto Dominion (TD) Bank foundation to continue their work in ensuring that children and youth are able to participate in meaningful ways. They are establishing a virtual centre on-line that will serve as a focal point for their work. To learn more visit [www.pactcanada.org](http://www.pactcanada.org).

### **Meaningful Child Participation in Family Court Processes**

IICRD began this two and a half year "Meaningful Child Participation in BC Family Court Processes" project, funded by the Law Foundation of BC in the Fall of 2003. Having completed research indicating the clear benefits of children participating in decisions that affect them, IICRD was interested in examining how the intent of BC legislation that provides for the views of children to be considered was actually translating into practice in BC Family Courts.

IICRD has had a strong team composed of Debra VanGinkel (past chair of the Canadian Bar Association's Vancouver Family Law Section) Judge Hugh Stansfield (Provincial Court Judge) Marnell Dragila (University of Victoria Law Student) William Chow and MacKenzie Gans (young people), Meera Thakrar (lawyer), Jocelyn Helland (IICRD intern), and Suzanne Williams and Philip Cook (IICRD) to move the project ahead in examining the current state, and identifying ways of supporting meaningful child participation within the existing legal framework.

Preliminary project findings indicate that child participation is not the norm nor is it always an available option. As one lawyer interviewed indicated, "I've had cases where the children want to be involved and speak to the judge and they have not been able to do so" (lawyer). There is an apparent gap between the legislation that supports child participation and its implementation. This gap seems to be the result of several factors including: lack of time; lack of money; concerns about the formal rules of court proceedings; and a perceived lack of expertise.

Some of the highlights of this past year include:

- ◆ Hosting an experts session with international, national and provincial participants including: Japp Doek (Chair, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child), Cindy Kiro (Children's Commission, New Zealand), Nick Bala (Queen's University children and the law expert), Judge Hugh Stansfield, Judge Tom Gove, Justice Brian Joyce, Tarryl McNamara (young person), representatives

from the offices of the Attorney General and the Child and Youth Officer and the Ministry of Children and Family Development, and several lawyers;

- ◆ Conducting a focus group with young people from the Federation of BC Youth in Care Network;
- ◆ Meeting with Chief Justice Donald Brenner of the BC Supreme Court;
- ◆ Conducting interviews with members of the bar and bench;
- ◆ Philip Cook presenting to the Vancouver Family Law Section;
- ◆ Suzanne Williams presenting to the World Congress on Family Law (Cape Town, South Africa);
- ◆ The Family Law Reform Working Group's Report to the BC Justice Review Task Force making specific mention of the Project work including a recommendation that special consideration be given to the findings of the project.

Thank you's also go to Kathy Berggren-Clive from the Officer for Children and Youth, Annette Harding from the Ministry of Children and Family Development, and Anka Raskin from the City of Vancouver who assisted with aspects of the Project.

A pilot supportive of meaningful child participation practices is scheduled to take place in Kelowna in the Fall 2005 with the project to be completed by January 2006. Funding for a second phase focused on training for relevant stakeholders has been submitted to the Law Foundation of BC.

### **Children and Environment Legacy Book**

IICRD has compiled the stories and art of the children for this exciting publication. IICRD has approached Jane Goodall (Roots to Shoots) and the Spirit Bear Youth Coalition to contribute pieces and assist in the publication of the book.

### **Growing up in Cities. Canada (GUIC.CA)**

IICRD's Growing Up In Cities initiative, involving six organizations in Canada is coming to the end of its 2<sup>nd</sup> year. We received \$680,000 from the Social Development Directorate (SDD) for this three-year project that seeks to strengthen the focus on the role of young people in local decision-making in cities across the country.



The past year has seen the beginning of a challenging process of critical reflection and social engagement with young people in Vancouver, Gatineau, Halifax, Truro and Shelburne. The International Institute for Child Rights and Development (IICRD), University of Victoria; in partnership with the Environmental Youth Alliance (EYA); Redwire Native Youth Media; Commission de Jeunesse Ville de Gatineau; HeartWood (Halifax); and the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, have embarked on an action based research project to explore child and youth perspectives on their communities in the context of creating more child friendly, socially inclusive urban environments.

The principle questions that guided the action research included: How are children and young people's views included in the planning and design of our cities? What are children and young people's perspectives of their cities? How can children and young peoples local engagement in their communities be more effectively supported? Key issues addressed included:

- ◆ Bringing marginalized child and youth perspective more effectively to local - governance decision making,
- ◆ Understanding the benefits of youth mentoring programs,
- ◆ Creating child and youth friendly urban spaces,
- ◆ Exploring Aboriginal youth perspectives on social inclusion, and
- ◆ Building meaningful partnerships between young people and decision makers.



Kirsten Moore talking to Paul Martin

This project arises and benefits from the successes and lessons learned by the international Growing Up in Cities (GUIC) program led by UNESCO to understand and help address the issues affecting urban children and youth in many parts of the world. It responds to the interest in Canada to increase children and young people's involvement in cities.

Through the two and a half year project funded by Social Development Canada, the project is developing and improving tools and approaches to strengthen the participation of 'marginalized' children and youth in service delivery and policy-making provided by Canadian municipalities, and put processes in place that allow youth to build skills for future employment by engaging in their local communities.

Drawing from the international Growing Up in Cities project, and the partnering organizations own work with young people, we used four research methods. Each of these methods engages young people in different ways.

### Mapping.

In this activity, individual's write or draw about what makes them special and the places or people that help them develop positive self esteem and connect and be included in healthy ways within their local community. They also write or draw their least and most favorite places.

### Photo-frame.

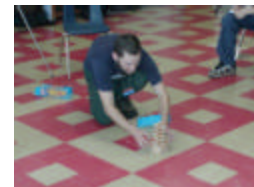
In this activity, young people walk around their community taking photo-frames of places or objects of importance to them in their city.

### Visioning.

Young people have an opportunity in this activity to share their vision of an ideal city.

### Jenga Activity.

The Jenga Focus Group Activity initiates group discussion on community supports that promote (or prevent) social inclusion by laying down 'Jenga' blocks. It also helps participants begin to develop an action plan that will form the basis for future action steps.



Each of the partner organization has now completed the first phase of the research, we have produces our first news letter, have a web site up and running complete with

databases see: [www.growingupincities.ca](http://www.growingupincities.ca), have hosted a conference in Gatineau in February 2005 and are currently working on a toolkit for Municipal governments to use to effectively involve youth in their cities. Natasha will also be presenting at the childhood conference in Norway in July 2005.

### ***Children Reclaiming Culture: Drawing on the Strengths of Child Participation and Traditional Cultural Teachings***

#### **Guiding Spirit Outdoor Youth Leadership Program**

Inquiries continue to trickle in on the Guiding Spirit program and we at IICRD continue to dialogue with partner agencies and funders to try and find a sustainable way forward. Currently we are sorting out a relationship with "Power To Be" (PTB) to provide training and evaluation on their youth leadership program for youth at risk in relation to health in Indigenous communities. This project has just received \$180K over 2 years from the Ministry of Health.

#### **Indigenous Children's Rights - papers/book**

The papers commissioned by DFAIT on Indigenous Children's Rights have been submitted and the additional chapters for the book on Indigenous Children's Rights to be published by Transnational Press are currently being submitted to the editors.

#### **Prevention of Violence Against Indigenous Children**

IICRD and the Aboriginal Liaison Office (ABLO) at UVIC hosted a 4-day gathering at Tsa-Kwa-Luten Lodge, Quadra Island, British Columbia, August 31<sup>st</sup> - Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> 2004 to explore the knowledge base, status and best intervention directions regarding violence against indigenous children with the support of UNICEF, CIDA, Health Canada, local First Nations and the BC Ministry for Children and Family Development (MCFD).



Prince Mota from South Africa with Tyanna Assu and Shanyaa Assu from Cape Mudge, Quadra Island, BC.

See website for the detailed report:

[web.uvic.ca/iicrd/graphics/PVAIC%20Proceedings.pdf](http://web.uvic.ca/iicrd/graphics/PVAIC%20Proceedings.pdf).

Proceedings were shared with NGO working group. Philip Cook and Bill White, UVIC Aboriginal Liaison Officer also traveled to Paris to present insights and findings to UNESCO, the UN Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples, and to the UN focal person on the Study of Violence Against Children.

#### **Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services (VACFAS)**

VACFAS has secured \$15,000 from MCFD to contract with the IICRD to support research on restorative aboriginal child protection programs and to use this research to develop a proposal to be submitted to the Canadian Institute for Health Research's ACADRE Request For Proposals in April 2005.

## **Change:** **Creating a Culture of Children's Rights**

### **International Youth Internships**

#### **Foreign Affairs Canada**

IICRD received \$105,000 from Foreign Affairs Canada (FAC) in 2004 -2005 for 7 international internship placements. Each of the interns spent a minimum of 6 months in the field. Come meet our interns...



2004/5 Intern Debriefing

- ◆ Helen Woldemichael is from Toronto. She is of Eritrean descent, has background in psychology and has just completed her Post Graduate certificate on International Project Management at Humber College. She has just completed her placement with the Save the Children Alliance in Thailand, regional office. Her final report documents...: *“ the human rights work that organizations including international and local human rights organizations, international development organizations and child centered non-governmental organisations (NGO's) have been doing to address human rights violations in Southeast Asia. The focus is to outline what kind of human rights initiatives organizations have taken and if and how children's rights is included in these initiatives. This rights based approach is based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which views girls and boys as full-fledged persons who are active, able, and necessary participants in their own development and that of their communities. It also analyses the root causes that lead to violations of children's rights, and advocates a holistic response.* Helen is now back in Toronto following up on several of the contacts explored in the debriefing.
- ◆ Andrew Wilcock is from Waterloo and has a BA honours in Psychology from Wilfred Laurier and a Masters in Public Administration from Dalhousie University. He has just completed his internship with the Education Research Institute in Slovenia where he analyzed and reported on data from the Cross-Cultural Study on the Rights of the Child; A Child Rights International Study Project, worked directly with Roma children and communities and participated in Youth Parliaments focusing on “Social Integration and the Expansion of the European Union”, with several specific areas of focus that are pertinent to youth including democracy and citizenship, children and education, discrimination and intolerance, and globalization, poverty, war and peace. Andrews final project was ... *”an article presenting an overview of selected findings from the second sweep of the CRISP study. Views from adult and children are presented to better understand the current situation of children's rights in Slovenia. The history, purposes and design of the CRISP project are provided. Children's perspectives on the importance and existence of various rights in the home and school are discussed, as well as contrasted to those of adults. The emotional and physical safety of children are assessed whereby evidence that the school environment, in general, appears to be a place of harsher and less supportive treatment than the home.”* Andrew found the debriefing quite useful in terms of contacts and steps forward. He is considering signing up with the Foreign Service.
- ◆ Emilie Paquin-Holmsted is from Montreal, Quebec and has a BA in History/Spanish from Dalhousie University. Her placement was with the child rights program of the Department of Socio-Antropologico at the University of Zulia in Venezuela. Emilie traveled around the country to meet with various Indigenous groups and organizing children's conferences. As a final project Emilie is publishing a book for IICRD, University of Zulia and UNICEF on traditional indigenous games...: *“The objective of this work is to reintroduce traditional games to indigenous children but also to reinforce Article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of Children also known as the Right to Play article. The targeted audiences for this book are children and teachers. In order to make this book easy to use, the text will be written in point form. Each game will be preceded by a brief description of the indigenous group that*

practices it. This description will include the following elements: the group's location, their activities of subsistence, their language and traditional housing. The description of the game will be detailed and will include the following elements: the number of participants necessary to play the game, the age and gender of the participants, the time of year the game is traditionally played, where the game is played, the material necessary and what the material is made of and the methodology of the game. The description of the game will then be followed by a brief explanation of the social and cultural educational value of the game. Every game is accompanied by painted illustrations and photos". The host organization is currently liaising with UNICEF Venezuela to complete the publication of this book, and Emilie is translating the copy into English. Emilie has also been accepted into the McGill Law program and will be starting this fall.

- ◆ **Jocelyn Helland**, is from Vancouver British Columbia and has a degree in Political Science from Simon Fraser University and has 6 years of hands on experience working with children and youth in BC on social justice issues, specifically child and youth rights. She completed her 6-month internship with Save the Children, UK in Bangladesh where she worked on Save the Children's Contributions to the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)



Bangladeshi children and families

for the Government of Bangladesh where she facilitated the process of keeping contact with several actors engaged in the PRSP drafting process to promote children's issues as they relate to the PRSP and produced information sheets on the development of the PRSP and how to make it child sensitive. Overall, while she felt that she developed many new skills, it was the personal learning that was most profound...*"It is no surprise that the most important learning that occurred during my stay in Bangladesh were personal. It is impossible to list even a fraction of what I learned there."*

Jocelyn will be continuing on with IICRD, assisting with a variety of projects including a retrospective on IICRD interns and helping pull together a local Indigenous child protection proposal.

- ◆ **Simon Garret** is from Vancouver, BC and has a BA in International Relations and a BA in East Asian Studies from Stanford University. He has just completed his internship with Inter-Mountain Peoples Education and Culture in Thailand (IMPECT) in Chiang Mai, Thailand where he assisted IMPECT and the IKAP Network organize a conference on "The Impact of Globalization, Regionalism and Nationalism on Minority People in SE Asia" in November 2004 and continue to work integrating a child rights focus on issues related to indigenous peoples, migration and HIV/AIDS, and building on existing English language curriculum for some of the hill tribe youth. In addition to dealing with the usual difficulties associated with an extended time working overseas in a new cultural context, Simon was also in Phuket, Thailand when the Tsunami hit SE Asia. For his final report, he focused on the learning of how to bringing academics and Indigenous Peoples, including youth, together effectively. Plans for the future include integrating his learning into the BC scene over the next few years and then signing up for the Foreign Service.
- ◆ **Ruth Amanuel** is from Toronto, Ontario, is of Ethiopian decent and holds a BA in Political Science from the University of Toronto. She has completed her internship with Centro de Atencion Multiple Cihualtan in Mexico, a school that works with children with disabilities and attended the IICRD debriefing session. Ruth's main activity over the past 7 months has been working with the children in the school, raising funds and awareness and the development of a website for the school. She reports...*"I helped C.A.M create an identity on the web. A website can be a forum through which it can create a relationship with other organizations in Mexico and abroad that work with children with disabilities. Not only is the goal of the website to inform but to educate. Interns can learn about the Children Rights Convention as it relates to children with disabilities. They can also learn about the varying disabilities such as autism, cerebral palsy or Down syndrome that they will encounter when working at C.A.M."* See [www.camcihuatlan.org](http://www.camcihuatlan.org). This experience has refined Ruth's passion for working with and for children and she will be taking this learning with her to Ethiopia,

where she will be connecting with organizations on the ground there while she spends the summer with her family.

- ◆ **Christie Nash** is from London Ontario and has a BA Honours in International Studies from Trent, as well as extensive youth leadership and community development experience. Christie is currently working with India with Concern for Working Children. In her 6-week report Christie reports...*“I have been actively participating in fieldwork and developing strategies for research compilation and documentation of processes and outcomes. I have assisted in facilitating three workshops, where the participating children have been provided with training on research models, research etiquette and information management. In the last six weeks, I have seen children undertake five different research methods, and I was amazed at their abilities to document and thoroughly understand the research process.”*... *“I have learned so much about working with children as partners. I have learned several new research methods, which are child-centered and friendly. I have participated and helped to facilitate workshops, and I have also been working on my documentation and computer skills. I am learning everyday about working through miscommunications and language barriers. And as you will see in the next section, I have been learning a lot about life, compassion, and humanity in general.”*

IICRD wrapped up 6 of the 7 2004/2005 internships in March 2005 with a two-day debriefing, Christie will be continuing on with CWC until September. IICRD has also been awarded 5 (FAC) Young Professionals International (YPI), internships at \$75,000 for the 2005/2006 year. The majority of our placements focus on International Indigenous applications of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child using a strengths-based approach.

This years placements will include the Save the Children Sweden, Thailand; Save the Children UK, Bangladesh; Educational Research Institute, Slovenia; Children’s Resource Center, South Africa; and Centro de Atención Múltiple “Cihuatlán”, Mexico.

Applicants for 2005/2006 internships have been selected. We have been very impressed with the increasing quality of IICRD interns over the past few years, with many of them joining our program staff at the completion of their internships. Jocelyn Helland, last years Save the Children Bangladesh intern has been retained to do a retrospective for IICRD on the last 8 years of our internships as means of documenting their impact.

### **Canada Corps**

IICRD has been chosen by UVIC to be put forward for the Canada Core Internship 2005 pilot valued at \$13,000. We are currently selecting a University of Victoria graduate student to work in India with Concern for Working Children (CWC) on governance issues related to the Tsunami and child labour. The internship will run for 4 months and will have a strong research/governance focus.

### **Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel to the BC Ministry of Child and Family Development (MCFD)**

IICRD’s Blue Ribbon Panel (BRP) Program that received \$180,000 for 2.5 years to serve the identified needs and desires of the BC Ministry for Child and Family Development (MCFD), is in its second contract period, running from January 2004 to May 2005. Achievements to date and projections for the completion of the contract indicate that prospects are good for successfully delivering all high priority services desired by the MCFD. The BRP has provided workshops, workshop programs, presentations, and



consultation to MCFD central office and regional leadership on a variety of topics, including: strengths based management, education and services delivery; transformation of service delivery systems; developmental assets based assessment; Indigenous issues and partnerships; prevention of violence against children; and child participation in Family Law. The BRP has also provided consultation for planning to achieve greater understanding and application of Alternative Dispute Resolution models, including Family Group Conferences, and it has provided international expert critical review of MCFD objectives and plans and consultation.

During the last period of the contract, by agreement across MCFD leadership, the BRP program of services were primarily devoted to identifying and serving the needs of the MCFD's five regions in issue areas relevant to those identified in the original contract. The Helping Kids Succeed Alaska Style model, a developmental and assets based approach to fostering partnerships for community capacity building and action, was applied across and in each of the 5 regions through 1 & 2 day workshops facilitated by Derek Peterson (previously the lead person in creating and managing Helping Kids Succeed Alaskan Style and Alaska ICE, and now an IICRD Associate) and the IICRD team to inform people and agencies of and prepare them to use the assets based approach in their communities. Each region had its own special central foci for which it was hoping to eventually incorporate this orientation. The topics range included: prevention of violence against children, supporting healthy early child development, ADR, fostering partnerships with Indigenous peoples, multicultural issues, involvement of faith-based communities, and alternative placements for children in need of care. The regional programs were a big success, resulting in strongly positive evaluations and interest in working with the BRP-IICRD on next steps. This will provide a solid basis for future work in the regions. Following up on this response, the IICRD has been working with the regions to plan for Assets and Human Rights Training this summer of adult and youth teams from the regions - teams that would be expected to guide and facilitate community mapping and capacity building during the coming year. A fall Youth Assets Conference is being planned as part of this program. Both Central Office and Regional MCFD staff have indicated strong support for this plan.

Plans and proposals are now under development for a next 2 - year phase of BRP service to the MCFD. Five areas are under consideration, some new and some extending from the last contract, including: development and implementation of an MCFD-BC initiative for community engagement (BC-ICE), alternative dispute resolution and family group conferences, refugee retrospective research, participation for children in care, Aboriginal partnerships, community living for children with disabilities, and community resource allocation to children and families.

### **B.C. Child and Youth Development**

IICRD also received funding from the BC Ministry of Child and Family Development, in the amount of \$75,000 over 2.5 years, April 2004 - Dec 2006 for Les Foster, an IICRD associate to develop materials and consult on issues related Canada's children.

Partner organizations working on this project include: Vital Statistics Agency, B.C., Human Early Learning Partnership at UBC and the BC Ministry of Health.

Outcomes to date include:

- ◆ Edited Volume (with Dr. R.S. Tonkin) on Youth Issues In BC  
This Volume will have 13 chapters on a variety of topics dealing with youth health and behaviour in BC. All major chapters are completed. One remains.

The volume is going through its final set up and will be published in the fall of 2005. It will be published by Western Geographical Press. Les Foster has prepared one chapter and is co-author of two other chapters in the book.

- ◆ B.C. Child Development Atlas (with the Human Early Learning Partnership, UBC)  
This atlas consists of nearly 40 colour maps and text related to readiness to learn indicators as well as key health and well-being indicators of children aged 0 to 6 years. Maps are at mainly at the school district geographical level, although some are at the neighbourhood level and others at the Local health Area level. All data is for B.C. Several maps deal specifically with the aboriginal population in the province. The Atlas will be published in late 2005 as part of the Western Geographical Series, Department of Geography, University of Victoria.
- ◆ Edited Volume (with Dr. Brian Wharf) on Child Welfare Policy in B.C.  
First drafts of eight chapters of this volume have been completed. Two others are in preparation. Les Foster has written one chapter and will be co-author on another. The University of British Columbia Press has agreed to publish the volume once it is completed. Publication is planned for 2006.
- ◆ Atlas of Youth Health and Behaviour in B.C.  
This Atlas is in a relatively early stage of production but approximately 60 to 70 maps have been developed to date. A maximum of 100 maps will be produced dealing with a variety of key indicators. Where possible maps will be developed at the Local Health Area level (health data). Some will also use the Health Service Delivery Area geography (Adolescent Health Survey 111 data) while others are based on School Districts (educational data). Some maps deal specifically with aboriginal youth. Discussions are underway with potential publishers. Publication will not occur before 2006, although several presentations using some of the maps have been made to staff at the Ministry of Children and Family Development.
- ◆ Improving the Health of Young Canadians Report.  
This report, which will be approximately 45 pages in length is scheduled for release in late September 2005 and will be published by the Canadian Population Health Initiative of the Canadian Institute of Health Information in Ottawa. It is the first of three reports on "Improving the Health of Canadians". Les Foster was a consultant for the report.
- ◆ Report on Infant Macrosomia Among First Nations in British Columbia - Prevalence, Trends and Characteristics, with William Kierans et al. for Statistics Canada.  
This report uses B.C. Vital Statistics data to examine issues of macrosomia (heavy birth weight) among BC First Nations peoples for the period 1981 to 2000. The prevalence of macrosomia increased over the 20-year period of the study and of particular concern is the higher risk of macrosomia among diabetic First Nations mothers. The report is currently being reviewed by Statistics Canada for publication purposes.

## Child Rights Education for Professionals (CRED-PRO)

Child Rights Education for Professionals (CRED-PRO) is an international initiative, endorsed by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, to develop educational programs on the human rights of children for professionals working with and for children. The overarching goal of CRED-PRO is to provide the tools through which professionals can better understand, appreciate, apply and respect the principles and standards of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in their day-to-day practice, as well as policy and research, in order to improve the development and quality of life of children.

*Strengthening the ability of professionals working with and for children to improve the development and quality of life of children*

The first CRED-PRO course for health care for professionals has been developed in cooperation with the American Academy of Pediatrics. The Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child has written recent letters of support for CRED-PRO. Funding for development, delivery, and overall project management is being considered by an international Foundation (estimated budget \$10million US), which is expected to inform the IICRD of its decision very soon. The Oak Foundation, Geneva, Switzerland, has indicated that there is a strong likelihood it will provide start up funding. IICRD will be informed of their decision by mid July.

## UNESCO Book: Eliminating Corporal Punishment: The Way Forward to Constructive Child Discipline

The IICRD worked as a partner with UNESCO during the last two years to produce a book clarifying the human rights and research imperatives for ending corporal punishment and providing principles and guidance to be applied in selecting, developing, and applying constructive child discipline practices. Stuart Hart, IICRD Deputy Director, was editor and a contributor to the book, which had as other lead authors Joan Durrant, University of Manitoba; Peter Newell, End All Corporal Punishment of Children ([www.endcorporalpunishment.org](http://www.endcorporalpunishment.org)); and F. Clark Power, University of Notre Dame. Important contributions were made to the book by a panel of international experts (Benedito Rodrigues dos Santos, Brazil; Nora Katona, Hungary; Shirley Mabusela, South Africa; Elizabeth Protacio-de Castro, the Philippines; and Hassan Qasem Khan, Yemen) and experts on Indigenous cultures (Anastasia Pinto, Centre for Organization Research and Education (CORE)/World Coalition for Indigenous Children and Youth in India; and William A. White/Xalemuxw/Kasalid, Indigenous Liaison Officer, University of Victoria, BC, Canada). The book was presented at a side-event program for the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Switzerland, in May and has been very well received.

## 3rd International Conference on Children's Rights in Education

The Lithuanian Minister of Education and Science has formally invited the IICRD to hold the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Children's Rights in Education Conference in Vilnius in late September of 2006. The theme of the Conference is "Preventing Violence in the School Community." Education International, the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, the International School Psychology Association, the Education Sub Group of the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and UNESCO have all formally joined the project which is to be

managed by the IICRD. A planning meeting may be held in Slovenia and Vilnius during the fall of 2005.

## *New Initiatives*

- ◆ Innovative Rights Based Approaches to Child Protection (CIDA, UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, USC at Davis and the Oxford University Centre for Refugee Studies)
- ◆ Law Foundation Phase 2
- ◆ GUICC - Phase 2
- ◆ CAP - Phase 2
- ◆ BRP - Helping Kids Succeed BC Style with Derek Peterson
- ◆ BC Interns

## *IICRD Activities*

### **NGO Activities**

Over the summer 2004, Hannah Rabinovitch worked to effectively involve young people in our day to day operations.

Our General Annual Review and 2<sup>nd</sup> formal AGM was held. Bill Meyers re-signed as Chair of IICRD and Val Fronczek, former Executive Director with the Society for Children and Youth of BC and the president of the International Play Association was nominated as the new chair. Bill White, Aboriginal Liaison Officer at UVIC was also formally elected to the board.

Ginger Grant and George Mc Ewen worked with the IICRD team to focus on building on our individual strengths to create a sustainable organization and to help tell IICRD's story in relation to its impact on children, families, communities and systems.

Charitable Status Application is still pending, though we should hear soon - in the meantime Tides Canada has opened an account for IICRD, and is issuing tax receipts on our behalf if needed.

We continue to focus on fund raising activities and getting our message out - approx. \$1300 has come in for the Tsunami project from Pender Island School and the "Three on a Tree Society". **Thank you!**

Stuart Hart, IICRD's deputy director continues to advise the Arigatou Foundation regarding their initiative to establish a "Council on Global Ethics Education for children."

IICRD continues to have an ongoing management role of the International Centre to Combat the Exploitation of Children (ICCEC).

## Meetings

Philip and Suzanne also met with Tides Canada to follow up on earlier discussions. Tides has agreed to take IICRD on as one of their funded organization and will thus profile IICRD's indigenous work on their website, assist in fund raising activities and provide donors with tax receipts if required. They also met with Barb Oates, formerly part of the Vancouver Foundation.

Philip and Bill White, UVIC Aboriginal Liaison Officer, were invited by UNESCO to present the results for the Prevention of Violence Gathering to the UN Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples, Mr. Rudolfo Stavenhagen, at a meeting on experts on Indigenous Education held in Paris, Oct 2004.

Philip, Stuart, and Michele along with Bill Myers, Victor Karunan (UNICEF) and Noemi Danao (Editor, Journal of Community Development) went to USC at Santa Cruz to meet with Barbara Rogoff and her graduate students to discuss links between her work on culture and child development world and our work on culture and children's rights, Nov 2004.

Philip met with Bill Myers (USC at Davis), Susan Bissell (UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre) and Jo Boyden (Oxford Centre for Refugee Studies) at Oxford University in Dec. 2004 to discuss innovative approaches to child protection.

Natasha attended the Canadian Coalition of the Rights of the Child meetings in Ottawa, February 2005

Philip attended the UNESCO Child Rights University Network (CRUN) meetings in Ghent, Belgium, March 2005

Michele provided input to the BC Officer for Children and Youth (OCY) on their Child rights curriculum in January and March 2005

Suzanne met with CIDA representatives in Pretoria, South Africa, March 2005

Suzanne met with Child Rights Resource Centre representatives and IICRD intern in Cape Town, South Africa, March 2005

## Presentations/Courses

Taught "Children and the Law" 2004 summer course, University of Victoria, Faculty of Law (Philip, Suzanne, Stuart)

Meetings with Anne E. Casey Foundation in Baltimore June 1-3, 2004 on the Affect of the North American Free Trade Agreement on children. (Philip)

Presentation at UBC Power of One Conference hosted by Spirit Bear Youth Coalition and Jane Goodal's Roots and Shoots (Suzanne, Michele)

Presentation at the Inter-Generational Conference at UVIC, June 4<sup>th</sup> 2004 (Philip and Bill White)

Co- organized and facilitated a workshop on using the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child to support children with disabilities in partnership with Society for Children and Youth of BC in Victoria on May 4<sup>th</sup> 2004. (Philip, Stuart, Michele and Brent)

Meetings with Shiseido Reps and Japanese Social Workers to discuss IICRD's approach to supporting children at risk Sept 2004 (Philip)

Several meetings with the Office for Children and Youth of BC to discuss IICRD's approach to Children's Rights, how they might use the CRC more effectively by training their staff on IICRD's approach and tools, Sept - Dec 2004 followed by a training workshop for Officer for Children and Youth staff and invited partners on IICRD's approach and the relevant supporting research, Jan 2005 (Philip, Suzanne)

UNITED WAY of the Lower Mainland- Evaluating school aged programs with child rights/participation lens. Oct. 2004 (Suzanne)

IICRD Internships - South East Asia Fair at UVIC, Nov 2004 (Michele)

Volunteer session on IICRD's work and approach, Nov 2004 (Michele and Yvonne)

Presented a course on Child Rights and Culture at the International Forum on Children's Rights, Ghent Belgium, November 2004 (Philip)

Presentation on Tsunami project to Pender Island residents, January and May 2005 (Philip and Michele)

Presentation to the Senate of Canada Human Rights Committee re: Canada's Obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, February 2005 (Suzanne)



Facilitation of GUIC Conference, February 2005 (Natasha and Yvonne), February 2005

Presentation to Rights-based Monitoring Project Team on Child Participation and IICRD's approach, Society for Children and Youth of BC, March 2005 (Suzanne)

Foreign Affairs Canada Internship Coordinators conference, March 2005 (Michele)

## Publications

Overcoming Adversity With Children Affected by HIV/AIDS in the Indigenous South African Cultural Context. Philip Cook and Leslie DuToit (Sage Publications)

Risk Recovery and Resilience: Helping Young and Old Move Together to Support South African Communities Affected by HIV/AIDS. Philip Cook and Bill White (Journal of Intergenerational Relations)

Prevention of Violence against Indigenous Children. Philip Cook and Bill White (Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana de la Ciudad de Mexico, Mexico)

Cross-Cultural Perspectives on the Child Image. Philip Cook (Institute for Children's Rights, University of Ghent)

Eliminating Corporal Punishment: The Way Forward to Constructive Child Discipline. Stuart Hart editor (UNESCO)

Youth Issues in BC. Les Foster and Dr. R.S. Tonkin editors

IICRD also received media coverage in the Times Colonist, Monday Magazine, Island Tides and Ring news papers and on 2 CBC radio programs on the Prevention of Violence against Indigenous Children Gathering and IICRD's response to the December 26<sup>th</sup> Tsunami.

## ***Core Staff***

- ◆ ***Dr. Philip Cook***, Executive Director
- ◆ ***Dr. Stuart Hart***, Deputy Director
- ◆ ***Suzanne Williams***, Managing Director
- ◆ ***Natasha Blanchet-Cohen***, Program Director
- ◆ ***Michele Cook***, Communications Director
- ◆ ***Yvonne Rondeau/Angella Goran***, Administrative Directors

**Members to be joining IICRD in 2005 include:**

- ◆ ***Jocelyn Helland***, formally with Officer for Children and youth of BC, Jocelyn served as an IICRD intern in Bangladesh. Her focal area is Children's Rights
- ◆ ***Derek Peterson***, Institute for Community and Adolescent Resiliency - Identifying Solutions (ICARUS) - 25 years of practical experience in assets approaches to child development, and founder Helping Kids Succeed Alaska Style

## ***Board of Directors***

- ◆ ***Val Fronczek***, former Executive Director for Society for Children and Youth and president of the International Play Association.
- ◆ ***Dr. Gordon Smith***, Director of the Centre for Global Studies, University of Victoria
- ◆ ***Kaija Dixon***, former Administration Director and Financial Coordinator, Inuit Tapirisat of Canada
- ◆ ***Agnes Pierre***, Elder, Katzie Reserve - First Nations Advisor
- ◆ ***Bill White***, Coast Salish (Nanaimo-Cowichan), Aboriginal liaison Officer, University of Victoria.
- ◆ ***Jil Amadio***, communications, marketing and public relations consultant
- ◆ ***Simon Jackson***, founder and Director of Spirit Bear Youth Coalition
- ◆ ***Larissa Streu***, Lawyer, Miller Thomson LLP
- ◆ ***Dr. Philip Cook***, IICRD executive director (ex-officio)

## ***Advisory Committee - Providing IICRD with Advise***

- ◆ **Senator Landon Pearson**, Government of Canada advisor on children's issues
- ◆ **Dr. Roger Hart**, Professor, Director of Children's Environments Research Group
- ◆ **Chief Kim Recalma-Clutesi OgwiLogwa (Kwagiulth)**, Qualicum Reserve
- ◆ **Judith Karp**, Former member, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child
- ◆ **Noeli Pocaterra**, Senator, Government of Venezuela (Wayuu)
- ◆ **Cherry Kingsley**, International Center to Combat the Exploitation of Children (ICCEC)
- ◆ **Jaap Doek**, Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Geneva
- ◆ **Dr. Bill Myers**, Chair, International Child Rights Expert, University of California at Davis
- ◆ **Victor P. Karunan**, Senior Advisor, Adolescent Development and Participation (ADAP), UNICEF Head Quarters, New York
- ◆ **Cynthia Price Cohen**, J.D.; M.A.; J.S.D. Child Rights International Research Institute, New York

## ***Associates -Supporting IICRD's Work***

- ◆ **Brent Parfitt**, Member of UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Geneva and former Deputy Ombudsman for British Columbia.
- ◆ **Lesley Du Toit**, Director Child and Youth Care Agency for Development (CYCAD), South Africa.
- ◆ **Julian Norris**, Co-founder of Rediscovery Ghost River and founder of Guiding Spirit, extensive experience working with traditional Elders and youth.
- ◆ **Dr. David Lertzman**, Adjunct Professor in environmental management and sustainability.
- ◆ **Pat Amos**, A key facilitator in the Guiding Spirit program and an experienced experiential educator and outdoor leader.
- ◆ **Rita Sikhondze**, Youth advisor, South Africa.



- ◆ **Sandra Griffin**, Advisor to Minister Ken Driden, Social Development Canada and former Executive Director Canadian Child Care Federation.
- ◆ **Chris Lowry**, Children's advocate formally with Street kids International and Medecins Sans Frontieres.
- ◆ **Gerison Lansdown**, director of the Children's Rights Office (now known as the Children's Rights Alliance for England) from its establishment in 1992 to 2000, and international consultant in children's rights.
- ◆ **Dr. Les Foster**, implementing policy change to benefit children through research and knowledge transfer.
- ◆ **Mira Dodig**, a strong front line woman and children's mental health practitioner with experience working in war affected areas.
- ◆ **Vanessa Currie**, formally with WAR CHILD and Taking it Global, Vanessa will be working for IICRD as a field officer in India.

***IICRD would also like to acknowledge the many volunteers that supported IICRD's work this year, including Paul Crossley, Anka Raskin, Fiona Scanlan, Mimi Warren, Gitanjali John, Justin McElroy, Hannah Rabinovitch and the many children, youth, community leaders, elders and committed professionals that worked with us on our many projects. THANK YOU!***