



Global Philanthropy is Growing as the World Shrinks

In 2002 Canadian charities spent approximately \$1.4 billion outside of Canada. This amount jumped to \$2.3 billion in 2006. Perhaps following the lead of Bill Gates and Warren Buffett, philanthropists are interested in helping people irrespective of national boundaries and looking to maximize the effect of their charitable giving. As communication and travel make the world seem smaller, it is easier than ever to make a positive effect on the lives of others around the world.

Some recent exciting global philanthropic initiatives coming out of Canada include:

- 1) **One Drop Foundation** – a 100 million dollar foundation set up by *Cirque du Soleil* founder, Guy Laliberté. The foundation is focused on providing clean water and sanitation in developing countries. (www.onedrop.org)
- 2) **Li Ka Shing Foundation** and Li Ka Shing (Canada) Foundation - education, disaster relief, improving medical care and enhancing culture – in China and elsewhere. This foundation is what Li Ka Shing call his third son and he plans on donating 1/3 of his wealth to the foundation. (www.lksf.org)
- 3) **Healthy Kids International** – a major project of SickKids Foundation in Toronto to train children specialists from developing countries at SickKids and, when those specialists return home, to support them through telemedicine, funding for programs, research and other initiatives. (www.healthykidsinternational.com)
- 4) **The Walter & Duncan Gordon Foundation** has created a Global Youth Fellowship. \$20,000 will be provided to each fellow to support

initiatives that educate young Canadians about key international aid, security and development challenges. (www.gordonfn.org/)

- 5) **Frank Giustra** of Vancouver has recently committed \$100 million, as well as one half of all of his future earnings from his work in the natural resources sector, to the Clinton Giustra Sustainable Growth Initiative (CGSGI) which will work to alleviate poverty in Latin America.
- 6) **The Humanitarian Coalition** - four large and respected Canadian humanitarian relief organizations namely, CARE Canada, Oxfam Canada, Oxfam-Québec and Save the Children Canada, have come together to form The Humanitarian Coalition, which combines fundraising initiatives in times of crisis and provide a unified Canadian voice during emergency response and appeals. (www.thehumanitariancoalition.ca)

These are just a few of many global philanthropic initiatives in Canada. In fact, there are over 230 charities that spend more than \$1 million per year outside of Canada. You can see a list of these charities, as well as articles on Canadians conducting charitable activities around the world, at www.globalphilanthropy.ca.

Canadians do a lot to help others outside of Canada in addition to charitable giving including personal remittances to family members and others of about \$6 billion per year. However, there is a lot more that can be done. Canada is a very prosperous country. Private foundations which represent the philanthropy of Canada's wealthiest families currently only spend about 1% on international activities. With the leadership of Buffett and Gates we will hopefully see an even greater commitment by Canadian philanthropists to global issues.

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