

participate, and make decisions at the community level for the benefit of all. Youth entrepreneurs face issues such as a lack of capital, access to credit, and information on planning and supporting programs. These young entrepreneurs are trying to address their own economic realities with solutions of their own. By supporting their own communities, youths are able to actively change local economic practices and thinking.

Both the federal (primarily through Human Resources Development Canada) and provincial governments in Canada have many projects that assist youth enterprises and help address the issue of unemployment. For example, the Nova Scotia government has the Youth Entrepreneurial Skills Program, which provides loan guarantees for business start-up. Other government initiatives include the Quebec government's Establishing a Farm Operation, which helps young farmers by providing subsidies to establish farms. In an attempt to address youth poverty and unemployment, the government of British Columbia developed B.C. Benefits: Youth Works. This targets youth who are eligible for welfare benefits by providing them with help in job search strategies and a variety of training and work experiences.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) is also assisting many youths in addressing the issue of unemployment. The Youth International Internship Program (YIIP) developed by DFAIT will create over 840 positions over the next two years. This program begins April 1, 1997, and will provide many Canadian youths with the opportunity to gain practical and international experience. Project information can be found by calling 1-800-559-2888 (613-944-2415 in Ottawa) or visiting our web site (<http://www.DFAIT-MAECI.gc.ca/english/culture/youth/menu.htm>).

Social

Youth comprise nearly 30 percent of the world's population. The involvement of today's youth in environment and development decision-making and in the implementation of programmes is critical to the