



Stephanie Peter of Vancouver Island has learned valuable life lessons through global connections.

for Aboriginal youth to gain worldwide job experience. Each year, Foreign Affairs Canada's Young Professionals International (YPI) supports about 35 Aboriginal job placements arranged by environmental and community groups.

"Our participants bring Canada to the world and they bring the

world back to Canada," says YPI Program Officer Brian Foreman, adding that the program offers "meaningful international career-related job experience" for many youth who would not otherwise have such opportunities. The placements for Native youth are especially door-openers to a wider world.

One of the participating groups in YPI is the Pacific Peoples Partnership, a social justice group in Victoria, B.C., that links Indigenous people in Canada and the South Pacific. The organization selected Stephanie Peter to spend six months on Rarotongo, the largest of the Cook Islands, working with local agencies to monitor water quality. While there, she also became a cultural ambassador, sharing her history and traditions with her hosts. Encouraged by local chiefs, she organized an oral history project to record and videotape the pre-Christian legends passed down by

Cook Island elders. It was an experience that drove home the power of global connections for Aboriginal youth.

"My going away made my desire to help my community grow stronger," says Peter, who looks back fondly on her placement, which nurtured skills that will last a lifetime. "My dream of helping my community develop in a culturally and environmentally friendly manner was brought one step closer." ♣

To learn more about the international programs and initiatives for Aboriginal youth mentioned in this story, see
www.international.gc.ca/yipi-jpi;
www.takingitglobal.org;
www.pacificpeoplespartnership.org;
www.iyp.oxfam.org; and
www.ayn.ca.

IN BRIEF

Internet-savvy youth concerned with jobs

Finding a job is a top concern of Canadian youth, and they are likely to use the Internet to do it, a survey commissioned by Foreign Affairs Canada has found. The study showed that 32 percent of young people identify unemployment as their greatest concern for the future, followed by education (20 percent) and finances (10 percent). The poll's purpose was to understand what motivates young people and where they go for information about career and personal development opportunities such as international travel and job placements.

Of those surveyed, 93 percent say they have access to the Internet and 79 percent say they have used it to find career and job information. Other activities include communicating

with friends, hobbies and entertainment and shopping. The telephone poll was done by Ipsos Reid among 1,200 Canadians aged 18 to 35 and has a margin of error of ± 2.8 percent, 19 times out of 20.

Canadians on 9-11

A new book recounts the uniquely Canadian aspects of the collapse of the World Trade Centre.

Written as a tribute to the 26 Canadians who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, *Orange Alert* includes recollections, first-hand accounts, poems and drawings by political and business leaders, journalists,

firefighters, emergency service workers, ministers, philosophers and children.

Ottawa author Debra Brown says she and her husband David Brown were inspired to write the book because they were "touched by heart-wrenching poems and reflections from elementary school children" about the tragedy.

"The common theme among the people we interviewed about September 11 is that it was a wake-up call to the real evil that we face, and that we must stand up to it," she says.

The book is available from Trafford Publishing for \$19.95 and can be found at booksellers or

at www.orangealert.ca.

