



Canada World Youth participants, Jessica Brett McMinn (Alberta), Dafnex Cabrera Padrón (Havana), Valerie Sanderson (Quebec), and Yamia Tamayo Rodriguez (Las Tunas), in Villa Clara, 2003

One program which has made a major contribution to Canadian Cuban friendship in recent times is Canada World Youth. This organization pairs young people between 18 and 22 to live and work together for three months with host families from a different region in each other's country. Canada World Youth's program in Cuba was launched in Cuba in 1996 through the personal support of its founder, Senator Jacques Hébert, and Cuba's Minister of Education, Luis Ignacio Gómez. At the end of the exchange each year in Cuba, all the participants meet to share impressions about what each has learned through the previous six months together: about themselves, each other, and their respective countries.