
Tea and coffee sales fight Third World poverty

Drink a cup of Mark Wilson's coffee and you will also help fight poverty in the Third World.

Twenty-seven-year-old Wilson has become the Ottawa representative of Bridgehead Trading, a Toronto-based alternative marketing organization that

imports tea and coffee directly from developing countries.

Bypassing multinational companies, Bridgehead encourages self-reliance and profit sharing among workers in the producing countries.

Canadian consumers, in turn, become

more aware of the exploitation and difficult conditions under which the people work. A small but significant link between rich and poor countries is established.

Bridgehead products include Nicaraguan filter coffee, Sri Lankan Orange Pekoe tea, and Tanzanian instant coffee. Bridgehead was started last year by four members of church and social action groups.

Preschoolers' playground travels around Prince Edward Island

A sunny yellow van approaches the eastern Prince Edward Island community. A young mother watching out her window spots the van's bright rainbow and calls to her two preschoolers, "Come on, kids. PAL's here."

Almost three years ago, a group of Prince Edward Islanders who worked with children felt they might serve rural communities by pooling their resources. Since PEI has no public kindergarten system, they felt a centre from where the equipment and ideas could be shared might help where isolated mothers were stuck for something to do with their children under 5.

It was just one quick step from there to, as Gilda Good of Health and Welfare Canada's national welfare grants (NWG) directorate put it, "a parent-preschool resource centre on wheels."

Good, the NWG directorate's regional consultant for the Atlantic provinces and Manitoba, explained why PAL (Play and Learn) received federal approval for three years' funding.

"Welfare grants provide two kinds of funding: grants to national voluntary associations which are outright gifts for core operating costs, and contributions to community groups for innovative

activities in the social welfare field."

Most of the federal money goes to those projects which demonstrate a new way to offer a social service or a new way to meet a social need.

PAL rates as innovative because it is a mobile version of existing services such as Toronto's Children's Store Front and the Parent Preschool Resource Centre in Ottawa.

"It's an organizing tool for rural women," said Gilda Good. "It gets them out and together, working and playing in a developmental way with their children..." said Good.

"It works so well," she reported "that during the project's first six weeks, two communities formed Parents-for-Pal groups which meet between PAL's visits."

Equipped with toys and learning materials, supplying information on child-rearing, health-care, nutrition and other topics as requested by the parents, the van serves eight communities — sometimes in ways unforeseen by its originators.

When estimates for equipment came to thousands of dollars, local carpenters, with a nudge from their wives, made the furniture themselves for a much-reduced cost.



PAL, the play and learn van, arrives in St. Peters, Prince Edward Island and Audrey Barter, the co-ordinator of the project, gets Jolynn MacDonald, age two-and-a-half, organized for a morning's developmental play. The program serves 416 preschoolers.

Profits aid development

Profits from the sale of coffee and tea in the first five months of trading amounted to about \$7 500, leaving \$3 712 after operating expenses for development projects in Nicaragua and Tanzania.

Profits from the coffee go to Oxfam Canada to support a public health project of the Nicaraguan Agricultural Workers' Association, in which 60 women are trained in health and hygiene and then work among farmers in their communities.

Profits from the sale of tea, grown and packed in Sri Lanka, are passed on to the co-ordinating secretariat for plantation areas — a federation of Sri Lankan organizations seeking an end to the oppressed conditions of the Sinhala peasants and Tamil tea estate workers.

Oil and gas report released

Forty-seven exploration agreements for rights in the Canada Lands were negotiated during 1982 under the resource management regime established by the Canada Oil and Gas Act, according to the 1982 annual report of the Canada Oil and Gas Lands Administration.

The agreements, covering about 26-million hectares in the Arctic and East Coast offshore, involve 65 wells to be drilled in the next six years at an estimated cost of about \$3 billion. Further agreements have been, and remain to be, negotiated this year.

During 1982, 23 exploratory wells were drilled in the Canada Lands, one more than in 1981. Three oil discoveries and six gas discoveries were made. The report said Canada Lands' established oil and gas resources are 469-million cubic metres of oil and 893-billion cubic metres of natural gas, compared with 414-million cubic metres of oil and 813-billion cubic metres of gas at the end of 1981.

During 1982, the oil and gas industry spent about \$1.5 billion in the Canada Lands and of that, 73 per cent was spent in Canada.