



Jenny Mittelsteadt

DFAIT launches *Mine Action Workbook*

Students, activists and educators have a new Internet tool for research and learning on the landmine crisis, the AP Mine Ban and the state of mine action. The *Mine Action Workbook* is now available as an interactive and downloadable PDF file through Canada's SchoolNet at www.schoolnet.ca/home/e/resources and DFAIT's SafeLane Web site at www.mines.gc.ca.

This easy-to-use Web resource contains visually appealing

lessons, project and activity ideas for involvement or further research and imbedded links which let users reach out instantly to dozens of agencies and organizations active in the global campaign against landmines.

Designed primarily for secondary school users, the *Mine Action Workbook* will be of interest to anyone involved in advocacy, research or education on the landmine issue.

Following on the successful first year of the Youth Mine Action Ambassador Program (YMAAP), seven new ambassadors were deployed across Canada to continue the mine action momentum. Joining this group of seven are two returning Youth Ambassadors—Melanie Gagnon in the role of National Youth Ambassador, hosted by UNICEF Quebec, and Alison Clement, Program Assistant at the YMAAP Secretariat in Ottawa. Melanie and Alison will share their experience with the new recruits and represent YMAAP on a national and international level.

The program also welcomed five new host organizations to the program—the Canadian Red Cross (CRC) in Toronto, Quebec City, Calgary and Vancouver and Oxfam Canada in Halifax. These agencies will join Mines Action Canada in Ottawa, UNICEF Quebec in Montreal and CRC Winnipeg in providing office and supervisory sup-

port to the ambassadors throughout the 10 month program cycle.

This year's cycle began in August with three weeks of intensive training to prepare Youth Ambassadors for educational outreach work with schools and community groups. With growing interest in the program, the training session this year also welcomed two guest interns, now applying their passion and skills at the Fredericton YMCA's Global Education department and the University of Minnesota respectively.

Youth Ambassadors will gain valuable international experience this year through participation in a field visit, international meeting or conference to expand their knowledge of current trends in mine action and mine ban advocacy. First hand experience of the problem and the international campaign will enrich and expand their domestic outreach work.

As part of their mandate, Youth Ambassadors will once again coordi-

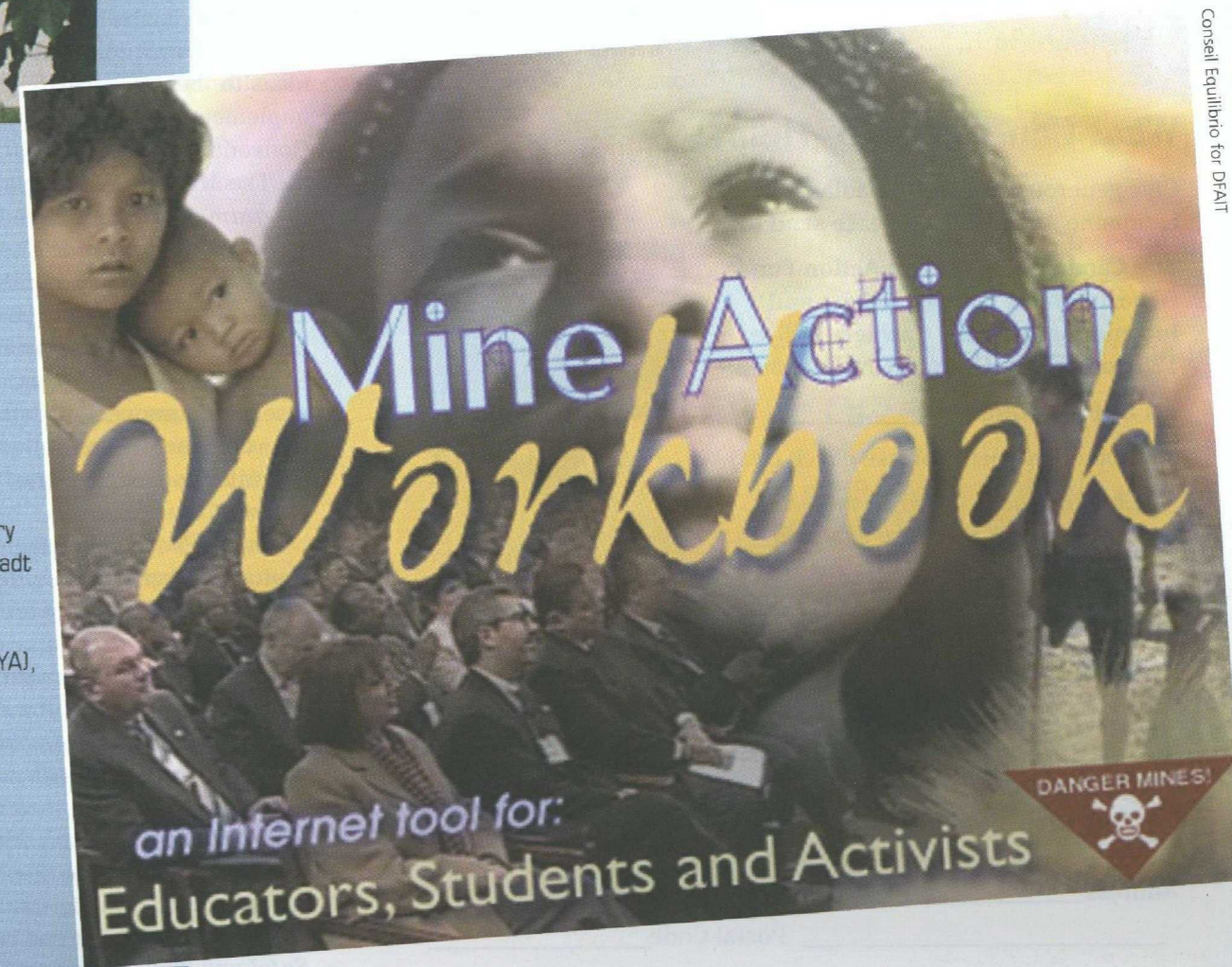
A new year of youth activism

nate two YMAAP signature events: the fundraising "Dance Without Fear", and a regional youth conference which focuses on the landmine issue and activism of Canadian youth.

A focus of this year's program is on career development to assist Youth Ambassadors in identifying goals for career development in the mine action sector. YMAAP is a cooperative partnership of the Canadian Red Cross, Mines Action Canada and DFAIT's Mine Action Team, with intern support from DFAIT's Youth International Internship Program.

For more information, contact the YMAAP Secretariat at 613-241-4141 or email: ymaap@sympatico.ca – Gail Zboch, YMAAP Program Manager

Left to right:
Violaine Des Rosiers (Quebec City YA), Jennifer Brammer (Halifax YA), Jill Olscamp (Fredericton YMCA Global Education intern), Darryl Toews (Winnipeg YA), Nancy Ingram (Calgary YA), Jenny Mittelsteadt (ICBL University of Minnesota intern), Carla Potts (Ottawa YA), Rochelle Johnston (Toronto YA), and Jackie Hansen (Vancouver YA).



Conseil Equilibrio for DFAIT

Check out DFAIT's new Mine Action Workbook at www.mines.gc.ca.