

Canadian University Services Overseas (CUSO) to begin recruiting



Photo by Tim Gorman

CUSO Atlantic director talks with a Brunswickan reporter.

By DERWIN GOWAN
Canadian University Service Overseas (CUSO) Atlantic Director Howie Gardiner was in Fredericton last Tuesday to make preliminary arrangements for their recruiting drive planned for October 26 and 27.

A CUSO technical director will be down from Ottawa, films will be shown, and there will be panel discussions.

CUSO is an independent development agency which recruits and send individuals from all walks of life to third world countries to train people in "the skills needed to cope with our fast-changing, technological environment," says CUSO literature. They supply volunteer participation and financial and material support to specific development projects initiated and directed by third world governments, groups or individuals.

Since 1961, CUSO has sent 5,000 Canadians to 66 different countries. Four hundred were sent last year.

The CUSO charter states: WHEREAS development includes the freeing of people, not just from the constraints of poverty, hunger and disease, but also from constraints which inhibit a person's control over his destiny, the pursuit of dignity and social equality, and

WHEREAS CUSO aims to participate in the global struggle for justice, equitable development and human progress, THEREFORE individuals commit themselves to strive for the following: (1) To increase their awareness of the root causes of inequitable development in all countries of the world; (2) To utilize this increased awareness in programmes designed to eliminate these inequalities; (3) During

their service overseas, by their lifestyles and work, to reflect their sensitivity and respect for the values and cultures of their hosts; (4) To recognize that involvement in the development process embraces both service overseas and action in Canada; (5) To recognize that their own country may be culpable in the continuing exploitation of one country by another; (6) To actively identify themselves with all peoples who seek to strengthen rights and responsibilities for their country's social development, consistent with the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Gardiner said CUSO sends volunteers overseas as requested from host countries and that country has to pay the salary of the volunteer. CUSO pays return fare to get the worker there and back. They also pay an orientation allowance for when he or she returns.

CUSO has field workers to meet with foreign governments in South America, the West Indies, Asia, the South Pacific, and East and West Africa.

These countries want people in the fields of teaching, health, co-operatives, agriculture, business administration, and numerous other areas.

Gardiner stressed that non-university graduates could also be sent overseas. Such things as mechanics and surveyors are in demand he said.

CUSO wants people with "just about any skill that is required," he said. However, said Gardiner, "If you're not requested, we don't have a place."

In some areas there are more than enough people, he said, but in others, there are not enough. This changes from year to year he added.

CUSO has a selection committee on each campus which forwards

names to the national office in Ottawa. Local committees are involved in recruiting, fund raising, and education programs.

CUSO receives an annual grant from the federal government and raise the rest of their funds privately.

Gardiner has just returned to Canada after spending eight and one-half years overseas with CUSO in the West Indies, Papua New Guinea and Nigeria as a program director.

He spent five years in the West Indies where the emphasis was on remedial reading and the development of technical colleges. For one and one-half years in Papua New Guinea he directed projects in technical and business development, co-operatives, agriculture and health. In Nigeria for two years he worked in education programs and teacher training colleges as well as agriculture, health, and technical projects.



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