World University Service of Canada

Background
World University Service (WUS)

In 1920, European students and professors gathered in Geneva to establish the European Student Relief which undertook student welfare programs and reconstruction of university facilities after the First World War.

In 1926, the organization became known as the International Student Service. After the Second World War, it provided emergency aid and assisted self-help reconstruction projects. Involvement soon spread to Asia in an effort to increase university facilities in newly independent countries.

In 1950, the name World University Service was adopted and WUS committees began to form in Africa to assist the development of higher education in independent countries. Today, there are WUS groups in 60 countries around the world.

World University Service of Canada (WUSC)

As early as 1920, students and professors organized fund-raising activities on Canadian campuses in support of educational projects in Europe and Asia. In 1939, the Canadian committee of WUSC was established at the University of Toronto and became incorporated in 1957 as the World University Service of Canada.

In 1948, WUSC held its first international seminar; in 1983, the seminar took place in Egypt. In the late 1950s, WUSC held its first handicrafts sale at Queen's University in Kingston. In 1983, Caravan crafts continued to be sold on 20 Canadian campuses. Since the 1970s, in line with the new WUS focus on Third World countries, WUSC has managed overseas development programs. Today, WUSC is active in 29 countries with more than 350 Canadians serving in the field.

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