

NEWS INTERVIEWS

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New Strategy for Development Aid

Canada has been sending aid to developing countries for thirty-eight years.

Last week Peter Mousley, Deputy Director of programming for the Anglophone African Section of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), visited UNB. He was invited by the Third World Studies programme, to talk about CIDA's new strategy for development in the Third World.

After a reassessment of its activities over the past twenty years, CIDA has adopted a new charter to govern its planning and spending. According to Mr. Mousley, the emphasis is on cooperating with the poorest peoples in the world on projects that will help them achieve self-sustaining growth. New areas will be targeted for aid and the aid delivery structure itself is being modified.

Mr. Mousley says that CIDA has made the alleviation of poverty its main priority. The realization of this goal requires

efforts in many directions. Speaking specifically of Africa, where he has worked, he says "African economies have not been able to generate the income they need to meet development needs." In most countries, economic growth is very slight, non-existent, or even negative, not keeping up with high birth-rates. This condition is exacerbated by a huge debtload.

To cope with this problem, CIDA is pursuing a strategy of encouraging 'structural readjustment' of the economies in these countries. It has forgiven loans to the poorest countries and now gives aid only in the form of grants.

Another priority for CIDA is to help developing countries achieve food security. Mr. Mousley notes that one billion people don't have sufficient food on a regular basis. Developing safe and reliable sources of energy for the Third World is another vital concern. In many areas around the

globe, people are forced to cut down trees for firewood, causing desertification, erosion and flooding.

CIDA has also targeted women as catalysts for development projects. According to Mr. Mousley, "Women make up half the population, work 2/3 of the working hours, produce 80% of the food, earn 10% of wages paid and own 1% of the land." Through their unpaid labour they provide "an unacknowledged subsidy to the world economy" of four trillion dollars.

To ignore such a vital economic force in planning development strategies would be foolish.

Substantial changes are also being made to the manner in which aid is delivered to Third World countries. CIDA has initiated a process of decentralization which will enlarge its field staff from 100 to 370 people. The idea, Mr. Mousley says, is to "bring officers closer to the people they are supposed

to be helping." It is hoped that workers will thus be more sensitive to the needs of the area, and have a better idea of where money is going.

Canada has also pledged to raise its aid allotment to 0.7% GNP by 1990 and to "untie" a further 30% of its bilateral aid budget. This would mean that only 50% rather than 80% of goods and services to be purchased with Canadian aid money will have to be bought from Canada.

In his lecture, Mr. Mousley referred to "the three dragons of development" which must be overcome to improve the effectiveness of Canadian aid efforts: contempt, skepticism and self-interest.

Although surveys indicate that between 70-90% of Canadians support the granting of foreign aid, most of them do not know much about development. According to Mr. Mousley, "There is a misconception that they (people in developing countries) do



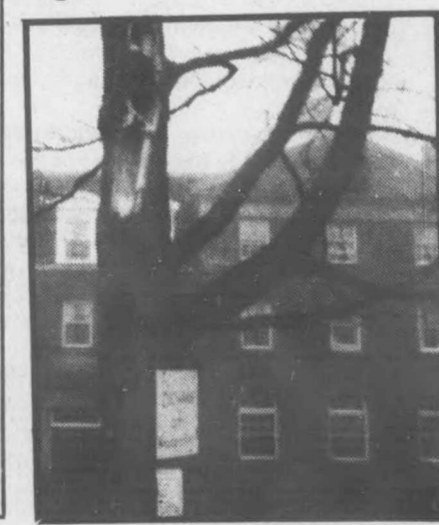
Peter Mousley, Deputy Director of Programming with CIDA.

not help themselves. That is patently untrue from my experience. There is only so much you can do with limited resources." Africans finance 80% of their development budgets themselves.

There also exists a skepticism about the effectiveness of aid. Mr. Mousley points to rising literacy rates, drops in infant mortality rates and the economic success of the "Newly Industrialized Countries" like Taiwan and Singapore as proof that improvements have been made.

With regards to self interest, the argument that "charity begins at home," Mr. Mousley notes that the money Canada devotes to foreign aid is 20% of what Canadians spend annually on illegal drugs.

CIDA has made a commitment to make Canadians more aware of development issues. Mr. Mousley's visit to UNB was part of that plan. He says Canadians should "Learn and get involved. Even criticism is good. It gets the dialogue going."



left to right: Kim McKay, chairperson of residents representatives board; Chantal Landry, N.B. Fund Development Coordinator for Diabetes Association; Andrew Smith, President of Jones House.

November was declared Diabetes Month in Canada. In this spirit, the residences of UNB participated in a coin drive during the week of November 6-12 raising funds for the Canadian Diabetes Association in their campaign.

A trophy donated by Ben's Trophies and Awards was presented as an achievement award to Jones House who collected the most money during the drive. The residences raised collectively a total of \$321.00 for C.D.A.

Diabetes is Canada's third most common killer among chronic diseases. It is the leading cause of blindness in North America and reduces life expectancy by one-third. One out of twenty Canadians have diabetes and the numbers are growing. The Canadian Diabetes Association is the leading force in diabetes research and every year C.D.A. organizes an annual appeal campaign to raise funds for diabetes research and awareness.

Vigod Scholarship established

Friends and colleagues of the late Bernard L. Vigod are establishing a scholarship in his memory at the University of New Brunswick. The Dr. Bernie Vigod Memorial Scholarship will be awarded annually to an outstanding undergraduate student entering the history honors program.

Dr. Vigod, who was killed in a car accident on Oct. 28 this year, was a professor of history at UNB in Fredericton and has served for several years as director of the university's history honor's program. At the time of his death he was the associate dean of graduate studies and research and New Brunswick's representative on the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

One of only a few anglophone historians to write about the history of Québec in the 20th century, Dr. Vigod enjoyed a national reputation as a scholar of French Canada. His book, *Québec Before Duplessis*, was hailed as a pathbreaking study of the

career of Louis-Alexandre Taschereau, Liberal premier of Québec in the 1920s and early '30s.

Among Dr. Vigod's outstanding contributions at every level during his university career, his work with undergraduate history students was especially noteworthy. "The large number of students who knew Dr. Vigod and benefitted from his superb teaching and his advice, remain as his legacy," said Stephen Patterson, chairman of UNB's history department. "It is therefore fitting that we should perpetuate his memory and his high standards by establishing an undergraduate scholarship of this sort."

The Dr. Bernie Vigod Memorial Scholarship Fund will serve as an endowment, the interest from which will provide the annual award. Donations to the fund may be made through the Development Office, University of New Brunswick, P.O. Box 4400, Fredericton, N.B., E3B 5G3. Contributions are tax creditable.