

AFRICA JOURNAL

Each year, hundreds of young Canadians work in Africa as part of the Government of Canada's Youth Employment Strategy (YES). The YES Career Focus program gives post-secondary graduates aged 19 to 30 the opportunity to gain international experience in such fields as social development, agriculture, the media, human rights, business and law. Through the magic of the World Wide Web, these youths are sharing their work experiences, observations, challenges and opportunities via on-line journals and success stories presented by DFAIT and CIDA. *Canada World View* brings you some examples of their prolific, colourful—and thought-provoking—on-line writings.

To read more of these stories and to find out about career opportunities for young Canadians through CIDA's International Youth Internship Program and DFAIT's Young Professionals International, visit CIDA's Youth Zone at www.cida.gc.ca/youthzone and DFAIT's site at www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/yip-jpi. For information about other government departments participating in Career Focus, visit www.youth.gc.ca.



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Durban is an incredible place. Under the apartheid system, segregation characterized the city. Since apartheid ended in 1994, that segregation has begun to break down. This means the city centre is now bustling with informal markets and street sellers. Mini-bus taxis have completely taken over downtown streets. They drive wildly to the thump of hip-hop music.

I work as a HIV/AIDS and housing program officer with the eThekweni Housing Department. HIV/AIDS is probably the most serious challenge facing "the new South Africa." KwaZulu-Natal is at the centre of the AIDS epidemic. Around 35 percent of adults in this province are HIV-positive. With those levels of infection, I expected to see the impact of the disease everywhere. Strangely, life here seems to be proceeding more or less as normal. There's only one way I can tell I'm in the middle of an epidemic, and that's the number of children on the streets of Durban. AIDS tends to claim the lives of people aged 20 to 40. That's the age when they would be caring for their children. As a result of HIV/AIDS, it is estimated that there will be 470,000 orphans on the streets of KwaZulu-Natal by 2010. Yes, 470,000! Ways must be found to house these children in a caring and community-oriented environment. This is one of the biggest challenges to come.

IN BRIEF

Canada-France 2004

This year, Canada and France are commemorating the 400th anniversary of the first French settlement in North America, and everyone's invited to the celebration. The countries are marking four centuries of continuous relations dating back to 1604, when Pierre Du Gua de Monts settled on Sainte Croix Island with famous cartographer Samuel de Champlain.

The Canada-France 2004 Programme aims to promote Canada's cultural, tourism and economic interests in France, as well as to

commemorate four centuries of dialogue and discovery between the two countries.

The program features a number of activities, including an exhibition on contemporary Canada at the *Cité des sciences et de l'industrie* in Paris, two *Maisons d'interprétation* in Normandy and Charente-maritime, a genealogical research program, the digitization of the archives common to Canada and France and a high-tech installation called the cyber/explorer.

CANADA-FRANCE 1604-2004

CANADA, UN ESPACE POUR L'
A SPACE FOR IMAGINATION



In Canada, the year will also be marked by an exhibition of valuable artifacts from the New France period, which opens in June at the Canadian Museum of Civilization.

Find out more about Canada-France 2004 and the year's special events at www.canada-2004.org.