



PRESS RELEASE

Young Canadians will be able to continue to grow and learn: CCIC welcomes the renewal of the International Youth Internship Program

Ottawa, March 28 2014. It is with great enthusiasm (and a big sigh of relief!) that the Canadian Council for International Co-operation today learned of the renewal of both the International Youth Internship Program and the International Aboriginal Youth Internship by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD).

“We are happy that the government has recognized the value of these internships and how they have change the lives of countless Canadians, all the while equipping them with better tools to find jobs upon their return,” said Julia Sánchez, President-CEO of CCIC.

The International Youth Internship Program has been around since 1997. It has enabled thousands of young recent graduates to gain work experience in a developing country, while making a significant professional contribution to the local partner organization. The International Aboriginal Youth Internship initiative was part of a one-year pilot project.

“Knowing that other young Canadians are going to be able to build their skills while contributing to global development objectives around the world is excellent news,” added Ms. Sánchez.

“We now look forward to seeing a call for proposals released as soon as possible to ensure continuity of these great initiatives.”

Former participants in the programme, the Canadian host organizations, as well as the local partners where they worked, have been on tenterhooks since last July when news was leaked from DFATD that implied the government wasn't planning on renewing the program beyond March 31, 2014, despite several evaluations on the positive impact of the programme.

The International development community mobilized in an extraordinary way around keeping the program going. They did so through dozens of articles and testimonies published in the press, letters from former interns sent to Ministers Paradis and Baird, meetings with MPs and a press conference on Parliament Hill last February. CCIC is very pleased to see that their voices have been heard.

“This is really great news. The youth internships are such a fabulous opportunity for young people to get directly involved in international development. There is such a growing interest in this field at present in Canada, but limited opportunities to get real practical experience on the ground” said Anna Brown, who was an IYIP participant in Malawi with the Canadian Co-operative Association in 2008 and claims that her career took off as a direct result of that experience.

For media enquiries please contact:

Chantal Havard
Communications and Government Relations Officer
Canadian Council for International Co-operation
613-241-7007 ext.311
chavard@ccic.ca
www.ccic.ca

Notes :

The Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC) is a coalition of Canadian voluntary sector organizations working globally to achieve sustainable human development since 1968.