



annual report **2005**

20 years



CODEV | 20

CODEVELOPMENT CANADA
building partnerships for global justice

message

from the President

In 1985 a small group of activists joined together to build solidarity with people in Latin America. They wanted an organisation that would promote mutual understanding and learning, support critical social justice projects and educate Canadians about our role and responsibility in the world. CoDevelopment Canada was created and has been working with this mandate ever since.

Looking back to the first 20 years of CoDev's work, we can be proud of the work we have supported. CoDev's first southern partners were women teachers in Latin America. With CoDev's support they have worked to gain recognition and respect both in their unions and in their communities. Their efforts to bring about gender equality have changed the lives of these women. Women leaders in the union are more commonplace and their gender equality approach to teaching is being used to educate a new generation of citizens.

In the early 1990s CoDev began work with a small group of Nicaraguan women trade unionists concerned about working conditions in the maquilas. These women faced intimidation and repression by factory owners to talk with maquila workers about their rights. Their persistence paid off and has changed the face of the maquila industry; abuse and forced overtime are now rare occurrences as women workers stand up to promote and defend their rights.

Through our programs, CoDev has educated thousands of Canadians. Many have gained new insight through our programs of exchange to Latin America and visits here by our Southern partners. Our annual film festival has become very successful and we continue to produce educational materials for students. Community groups have been able to set up and maintain links with Latin American communities with the support of CoDev. Trade unions have established solidarity committees and are gaining more and more recognition for their work also with help from CoDev.

The achievements and vision of our Southern partners give us a solid base for launching into the next 20 years. In this annual report, you will read about some of the initiatives that Southern partners are taking to move ahead. The support each of you provides has been critical to our success. Thank you for your generosity and commitment during our first 20 years. We will continue to work with committed Canadians and Latin Americans and know that we can count on you.

In solidarity,



RHONDA SPENCE

Students at a school in Honduras during a recent visit by Canadian teachers on tour with CoDev.

Photos by: Jacqui Birchall



BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE

An Overview of CoDev Partnerships

After 20 years of building partnerships with Latin Americans working for change, CoDevelopment Canada has a solid foundation of successful relationships of which we are proud. We have learned through our partners' experiences, adapted to their needs, and together built on our successes. Today we are more inspired than ever, looking at the road ahead.

When CoDev began working in the mid-1980s, many countries in Latin America were going through significant changes, moving from authoritarian national-security states to democracies. What was needed from us then was solidarity, and support for community projects that would bring about fundamental social change. We responded to those needs and learned from our partners about the long-term nature of social change.

During the 1990s, the Latin American democracies adopted political and economic policies such as structural adjustment plans that made life more difficult for the poor majority in their countries. Because of this, CoDev's partners often had more needs to attend to but also needed to shift their ways of working to adapt to the democracies they now faced. They needed to strengthen their organisations, and needed support for their own members and participants to adapt to change. CoDev and our northern partners continued the support and learned about the struggles of dealing with unjust economic measures.

We now see ourselves needing to take another step alongside our Latin American and Canadian partners. Economic globalization has created an increasing interconnectedness between what is happening in the north and in the south. Imperatives for community development and engagement are beginning to look the same the world over. Like Canadians, CoDev's Latin American



partners are increasingly aware that in order to make positive changes in their societies, they need to be able to take the concerns of the community to a policy level, be that with governments or with the private sector. This hard work of engagement and policy influence is a critical component of a truly democratic society, and that's where our partnerships are taking us now.

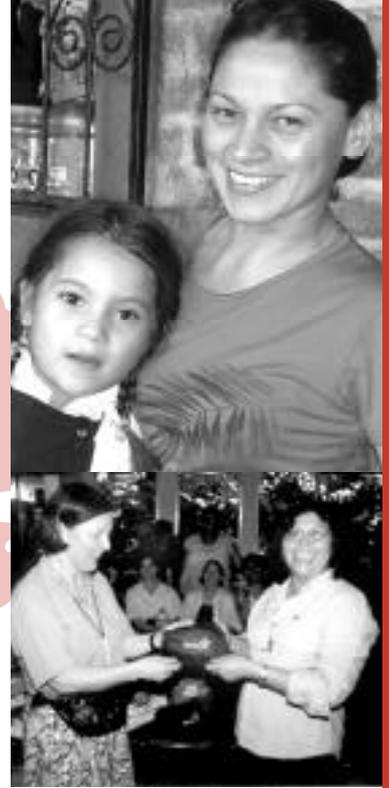
Our work in Latin America over the last two decades is only part of the story. While we have had the privilege of knowing our southern partners and discovering their realities, another vital part of CoDev's partnership model is our connection with people in Canada. The stories and lessons from Latin America must be told here so Canadians can respond. CoDev works hard to make Canadians aware of their part in the global picture. Over the past 20 years we have built up a very solid foundation of awareness and supporters. This network is growing, and we see our role as an educator and catalyst as increasingly important.

It is this foundation, both in Latin America and Canada, of knowledgeable, aware and committed citizens, that will allow us to move ahead with confidence and vision. Citizens everywhere need to make their views known, and to make sure those views are being taken into account by decision-makers. Our partners in Latin America are working to make this happen. We look forward to continuing with them and with our Canadian partners and supporters for another 20 years of social change.

Thank you to everyone who has been a part of this movement for the past two decades. *La lucha continua!*

Nicaraguan maquila workers march in Managua.

Photo by: Jacinto Bendaña



TOP PHOTO: **Pancasán mother and daughter.** Photo by: Michael Zelmer

BOTTOM PHOTO: **BCGEU in solidarity with MEC.** Photo by: Lee Bensted

CREATING CHANGE

Big Leap by Women of Micro-Credit Project in Ometepe



*Movimiento de Mujeres
Trabajadoras y Desempleadas
"María Elena Cuadra"*

Sometimes the steps on the road ahead are small and hesitant, and sometimes they are more like leaps. CoDev's partner in Granada, Nicaragua is the regional office of the Movimiento de Mujeres María Elena Cuadra, or MEC. They have been working through CoDev

on a micro-credit project for the past four years, providing women in the city of Granada and an indigenous community on the island of Ometepe with small loans. These loans are accompanied by workshops on self-esteem, reproductive health, human relations, family violence, finances, economics and gender.

Earlier this year, a real leap was made by the indigenous women from Ometepe. Each year, women from both groups come together, either in Granada or on Ometepe, to do a small workshop, share experiences and learn from each other. It's a



MEC-Granada team.

Photo by: Carol Wood

time of celebration and sharing, and all the participants look forward to it.

At the last encounter, the mayor of the main town on Ometepe was invited. The Ometepe group, previously shy and quiet, spontaneously took advantage of their mayor's presence, and stood to give him and other prominent members of their community a list of 17 demands for their area. The list included stopping the privatization of their beaches through foreigners buying up land for hotels, improving the roads in their communities, providing more programs for women in the community, and building a ramp up a particularly difficult slope.

The staff from the office in Granada, recognizing the importance of the moment, frantically wrote everything down, and later drafted letters to the mayor, the judge, and the head of an orphanage on the island. The mayor was impressed with the quality of the women's intervention, and promised to act. Three of the proposals were implemented within three months of the meeting!

This is a pretty amazing leap and definitely deserves to be noted as a "result". The training these women have been receiving through CoDev and their northern partner OGIFA, has given them the confidence and skills to formulate their concern, and bravely defend their right to a better place to live. We can all be proud of that.

**MEC-Granada workshop
in Urbaite, Ometepe.**

Photo by: MEC-Granada

SUPPORTING SOLIDARITY

Stories from CoDev's Donors

CoDevelopment continued to flourish in 2004 through the strength of our partnerships with our individual and organizational donors in British Columbia and across Canada. Whether through monthly contributions, annual gifts, or donations to CoDev's Endowment Fund, our donors have continued to demonstrate their support for CoDev's vision of strengthening civil society to create a more just world. In celebration of our donors' vision and commitment, we asked two of our individual donors, Gordon Savard and Erin Ellis, to share their personal stories.

GORDON SAVARD

"My involvement in the peace movement began at the age of 12, when I was on the farm in Alberta. This involvement naturally got me engaged in problems in other nations. When I joined CUPE I became and still am a member of the BC International Solidarity Committee. My involvement with CoDev stems back to CUPE's first project with CoDev in Cuba, working with public administrators (SNTAP). Over the years, we have also worked with the maquila workers in Nicaragua (MEC) and the public workers' union in Cali, Colombia (SINTRAEMCALI).

I have found CoDev's involvement to be very valuable at all such events and CoDev continues to be an important component of the International Solidarity movement.

My personal involvement with CoDev goes deeper than that. Over the past 20 years I have participated in trips to Cuba with CoDev being a major player and interpreter. I have attended rallies, fundraisers, conferences and educational workshops as a participant, co-chair and co-facilitator, many of which CoDev was a sponsor. I have found CoDev's involvement to be very valuable at all such events and CoDev continues to be an important component of the International Solidarity movement. Considering the current direction of global politics, I can see that the services of CoDev will only become more important

for more areas, including countries in Central America. CoDev will be required to be there with education, leadership, and funding directed to the right programs. Building partnerships for a fairer world still rings loud and clear for CoDevelopment Canada today."

ERIN ELLIS

"I became interested in CoDevelopment Canada after buying some Cafe Etico coffee beans. I think fair trade will be key to future international development. I began doing some volunteer work for Cafe Etico and discovered CoDev's wider work in labour rights, women's rights and protection of public education - all areas of interest to me.

I know every donor to CoDev is appreciated and valued. It's been running for 20 years, which really shows how a small group of people can make a difference"

I saw an organization running with very low overhead costs and a dedicated group of staff and volunteers who ensured that each donated dollar went a long way. I now contribute regularly to CoDev because I believe smaller development organisations can deliver highly effective programs that are not as restricted by bureaucracy or burdened with the heavy advertising bills of some larger organisations. I know every donor to CoDev is appreciated and valued. It's been operating for 20 years, which really shows how a small group of people can make a difference"

Whether through monthly contributions, annual gifts, or donations to the CoDev Endowment Fund, our donors have continued to demonstrate their support for CoDev's vision.

With the support of donors like Gordon and Erin, CoDev has a strong foundation to engage in 20 more years of solidarity, action and growth. Thank you to all of our supporters over the past year!

Reminiscing with APSIES

Talking with Santiago Diaz, the General Coordinator of APSIES (Salvadoran Association for Integrated Health and Social Services) about his organisation's history with CoDev is a bit like reminiscing with an old friend. It has been 14 years since this partnership began, and Santiago said that CoDev's 20th anniversary made him "remember moments of happiness and dreaming, as well as difficult moments in his organisation's trajectory."

"The most important part of our relationship with CoDev has been the respectful treatment in



Santiago Diaz, General Coordinator of APSIES.

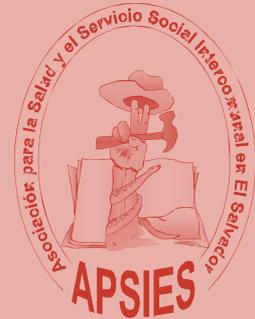
Photo by: Jim Gorman

the partnership, with our organisations seen horizontally and as a complement to each other; for example, the exchange of learning experiences between Canada and El Salvador. I was very happy to see during my trips to Canada that my job was to sensitize, do consciousness-raising, and help the Canadian people learn about the situation in El Salvador so that what happened here would not happen in Canada, for example in the health sector. The trips to El Salvador made by the Health Sciences Association and CoDev staff have really helped us to keep up the energy for the fight in El Salvador, knowing we are not alone.

"The relationship is also special because it strives to maintain openings for a relationship of equality, and financing is not tied to certain programming lines, but seeks to get the best results in consensus

with the southern partner. CoDev is different from other organisations because they identify with the very heart of southern partners – the agreements

CoDev is different from other organisations because they identify with the very heart of southern partners.



are not straitjackets but rather guides for better results. The steady financing allows for steady development processes, and so projects have a greater impact.

"The beginning of our partnership with CoDev was an important moment for me and for APSIES. Oxfam funding to us was being stopped because El Salvador had signed the peace agreements, and 'did not need the same level of aid any more.' At the same time, the Salvadoran government had begun a strong campaign saying that they covered the health situation according to the constitution, which was not true.

"APSIES was moving from working in wartime to working in peacetime, and CoDev's partnership model allowed us to show how much could be done with few resources. In some ways, it was a letter of recommendation allowing us to demonstrate our competence to other funders such as NOVIB from Holland and Intermon from Spain.

"My first trip to Canada had a great impact on me, seeing first-hand the beauty of Canada and of its people. As well, it was very satisfying to be given the opportunity to fully explain the reality of El Salvador.

"In conclusion, working 15 years with CoDev has been a great source of satisfaction and pride for APSIES. Together we have done relevant work in El Salvador that fits in perfectly with the Salvadoran reality, work that is worth continuing."

Lolotique, El Salvador

July 2005



ENGAGING CANADIANS

20 Years of Initiatives

One of CoDevelopment's greatest strengths continues to be its central commitment to educating Canadians about the work of the people of the global south to create a better world. CoDev's partnership model, linking Canadian and Latin American organisations, is a key component of this. Through CoDev's Northern partners, CoDev reaches nearly half a million Canadians to increase understanding and build a commitment toward social justice.

Over the past 20 years, Codev has developed multiple initiatives to engage and educate Canadians. Highlights include:

- **First Nations Youth Exchange** – During the 1990s Codev worked with BC First Nations bands and indigenous groups in Chile and Guatemala to organise youth leadership training that saw young indigenous people from Canada and Latin America work together to learn from each other's cultures, differences and similarities.
- **Global Issue Teaching Resources** – CoDev has produced more than a dozen curricular resources for teachers to bring global issues into the classroom. These resources have been popular – we regularly receive enthusiastic reviews from teachers who appreciate the way we present issues and encourage critical thinking and action.
- **Tours to Latin America** – CoDev takes delegations of our Northern partners to visit with southern partners, to help strengthen the partnerships and increase the understanding of southern partner realities. These visits have enriched Northern partners' experiences, commitment and have allowed for members to increase their knowledge.
- **World Community Film Festival** – CoDev's annual film festival has become a much anticipated event among development activists and film buffs alike. The film festival was first created by the World Community Development Education Society of Courtenay, a CoDev northern partner. CoDev hosts the festival annually in Vancouver where hundreds of people come to see and discuss documentary films from around the world.

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CODEVELOPMENT CANADA

building partnerships for global justice

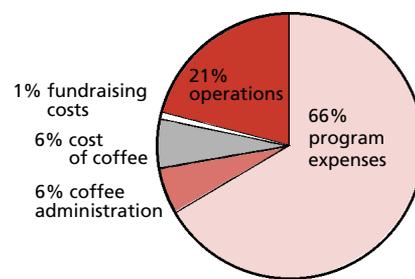
CODEVELOPMENT CANADA

Financial Report 2005

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	March 31, 2005 (12 months)	May 31, 2004 (10 months)
ASSETS		
Cash and Short-Term Deposits		
Unrestricted	\$ 33,140	\$ 98,221
Restricted	<u>160,955</u>	<u>108,497</u>
	194,095	206,718
Accounts Receivable	19,498	80,684
Prepaid Expense	3,189	4,903
Coffee Purchase Deposit	22,018	30,819
Inventory	32,059	19,251
Contributions Receivable	361,009	700,000
Capital Assets, at cost less accumulated amortization of \$38,010 (2004-\$35,387)	<u>9,264</u>	<u>11,300</u>
	<u>641,132</u>	<u>1,053,675</u>
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	33,494	69,522
Coffee Purchase Advances	11,552	71,715
Deferred Project Revenue	47,230	35,425
Deferred Project Contributions	<u>373,259</u>	<u>704,000</u>
	<u>465,535</u>	<u>880,662</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 175,597</u>	<u>\$ 173,013</u>

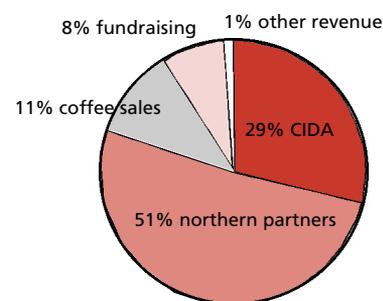
2004-2005 Expenditures



CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

	March 31, 2005 (12 months)	May 31, 2004 (10 months)
RECEIPTS		
Contributions from CIDA	\$ 328,632	\$ 336,161
General Donations	565,138	567,300
Coffee sales	126,262	114,455
Fundraising	79,574	28,815
Grant	18,000	-
Interest income	<u>1,978</u>	<u>2,364</u>
	1,119,584	1,049,095
EXPEDITURES		
Direct Expenditures-CIDA projects	574,067	578,314
Direct Expenditures-other projects	149,965	143,991
Cost of coffee sold	69,435	72,623
Fundraising	12,141	205
Agency operations	232,204	183,622
Administrative expenses-coffee sales	<u>68,188</u>	<u>50,647</u>
	1,106,000	1,029,402
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER EXPEDITURES	13,584	19,693
Transfer to the CoDev Endowment Fund	(11,000)	-
NET ASSETS, Beginning of Period	<u>173,013</u>	<u>153,320</u>
NET ASSETS, End of Period	<u>\$ 175,597</u>	<u>\$ 173,013</u>

2004-2005 Revenue



The Association's complete 2005 audited financial statements are available upon request.