

**“A PEOPLE WITHOUT
THE KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR
PAST HISTORY, ORIGIN
AND CULTURE IS LIKE A TREE
WITHOUT ROOTS.”** – MARCUS GARVEY



ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013

SEVEC is supported by:



Canadian
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canadien

Canada

HISTORY

ORIGIN

CULTURE



Exchange. Explore. Experience.



THE SOCIETY FOR EDUCATIONAL VISITS AND EXCHANGES IN CANADA



VISION

To inspire youth with a stronger sense of identity and self-confidence in building the Canada of tomorrow.

MISSION

SEVEC's mission is to unite Canadian youth through exchange programs which explore their shared heritage, languages, and communities in order to build the Canada of tomorrow.

VALUES

SEVEC values the cultural, linguistic and ethnic diversity of Canada and believes that the shared experience of educational visits and exchanges has a lasting positive impact on the lives of young people by encouraging mutual respect and understanding among them.

SEVEC is committed to offering safe, secure, educational exchanges and visits opportunities for young people that foster their intellectual, cultural, linguistic and social development.



THE GOVERNOR GENERAL · LE GOUVERNEUR GÉNÉRAL



I am delighted to congratulate the Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada (SEVEC) on its achievements over the past year.

The Canada of tomorrow belongs to today's youth. By providing them with enriching experiences that expand their horizons and deepen their knowledge of Canada, SEVEC is giving them the opportunity to acquire important skills. During educational exchanges, participants form bonds with one another and with their host communities, discovering and learning together. These exchanges are truly one of the best schools of life. The experiences offered shape their values and opinions, enabling them to grow and develop a stronger sense of identity.

Each participant, in his or her own way, will help to build the country of tomorrow, a Canada that, in all its diversity, encourages dialogue, openness, inclusion and cooperation. I therefore commend the work and efforts of everyone involved with SEVEC, which are ensuring the organization's continued success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'David Johnston'.

David Johnston

Minister of Canadian Heritage
and Official Languages



Ministre du Patrimoine canadien
et des Langues officielles



On the road to Canada's 150th birthday in 2017, our Government is committed to helping young people experience our country's communities, languages, and culture. Our youth programs aim to develop a sense of Canadian identity and attachment to Canada. This is why we are pleased to support the Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada (SEVEC).

Since SEVEC was founded in 1936, its exchange programs have been giving youth the opportunity to learn about their country, their fellow Canadians, and themselves, while also developing confidence in their own leadership skills. By promoting cultural and linguistic exchanges, SEVEC strengthens our young people's sense of belonging to their country and prepares them to take part in the life of their community.

On behalf of Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the Government of Canada, I would like to thank SEVEC and all those who make it possible for young Canadians to share this enriching experience.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shelly Glover".

The Honourable / L'honorable Shelly Glover

Canada





MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FRANÇOISE GAGNON

“A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin, and culture, is like a tree without roots.”

– Marcus Garvey

The imagery evoked by this quote resonates with those of us familiar with SEVEC exchanges. They bring together youth from across Canada: from urban and rural communities to the most remote Northern and Aboriginal communities, across every cultural background. Although these groups begin their journeys as strangers who know little of each other and their travel destinations, SEVEC exchanges unite youth in their commonalities and dissolve the distances and differences among them.

Much has changed in the 76 years since SEVEC began facilitating youth programs; but our mission of uniting Canadian youth through exchanges that explore our shared history, heritage, languages and communities, remains constant. The alumni stories in the pages within illustrate lives changed by our exchanges.

We thank the Department of Canadian Heritage for their generous support. Without their contributions, financial and otherwise, these exchanges would not be possible. As a result, SEVEC's numbers are impressive: each year, 5000 youth take part in exchanges to one of 10 provinces and 3 territories. The average group size is 25; they spend one week on exchange and one week hosting their twins. The typical cost of travel per participant is \$960, paid for by the Department of Canadian Heritage, and our participants visit more than 200 destinations across Canada each year.

The real story of SEVEC's exchanges lies not within the numbers, but in the “roots” they establish for youth: connections made when individuals from varied backgrounds and communities come together and get to know one another. Exchanges provide the ability for youth to communicate with their peers across the country; they gain a better understanding of our cultural diversity, and an appreciation of our shared history. In essence, exchanges provide insight into what unites us as Canadians. Beyond the statistics, the bonds of unity formed on SEVEC exchanges represent the true value and measure of these experiences. Uniting youth strengthens our social fabric, and supports the roots for a better and stronger Canada in the years ahead.

As you review our Annual Report, I hope you will share in our enthusiasm for the achievements of 2012-2013, and support SEVEC as we ask the Government of Canada to renew its commitment to youth and a stronger, more united Canada through the auspices of our exchanges.

Warm regards,

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS DON NEELAND



For over 76 years SEVEC has facilitated youth exchanges throughout Canada. SEVEC's home stay exchanges are unique in that they allow youth, some for the first time, to truly experience another region of our country, its history, its geography and its people, making a real connection to each other and to their country. SEVEC exchanges help to knit us together as a people and strengthen the fabric of Canada.

Funded through the generous support of the Department of Canadian Heritage, SEVEC works with its many partners including school boards, principals, teachers, and other participating youth organizations to educate Canadians about the rich heritage and history of our country. Over the years, SEVEC's programming has adapted to changing national priorities and demands while delivering on our mission to improve the knowledge of our youth about Canadian history, geography, languages, cultures, and diversity through exchanges.

Françoise Gagnon, our Executive Director, and her team work diligently each day to match groups, facilitate exchanges and to ensure that best practices are applied to enhance the exchange experience.

In these times of economic restraint, SEVEC has reduced costs without impacting our efficient delivery of services to our youth and group organizers on exchange.

Our Youth Advisory Committee is made up of participants of exchanges from across the country. Their enthusiasm and energy, together with their experience as participants assist SEVEC in keeping current with our youth today.

SEVEC's Teachers' Advisory Council made up of representatives of the teaching profession, bring their experience as group exchange organizers, both past and present, and provide advice to the organization.

Your SEVEC Board remains committed to provide Canadian youth with exchange opportunities to explore our country's diversity in all its richness and most importantly to experience what we share in common as Canadians. I want to thank them for their contributions over the past year and their assistance in making SEVEC the success that it is.

As we move down the road together towards the 150th anniversary of Confederation, we have much to celebrate and much to share. SEVEC exchanges offer to our youth a way to participate in a meaningful way, in all that Canada is and in all that it can be.



YOUTH EXCHANGES CANADA REPORT

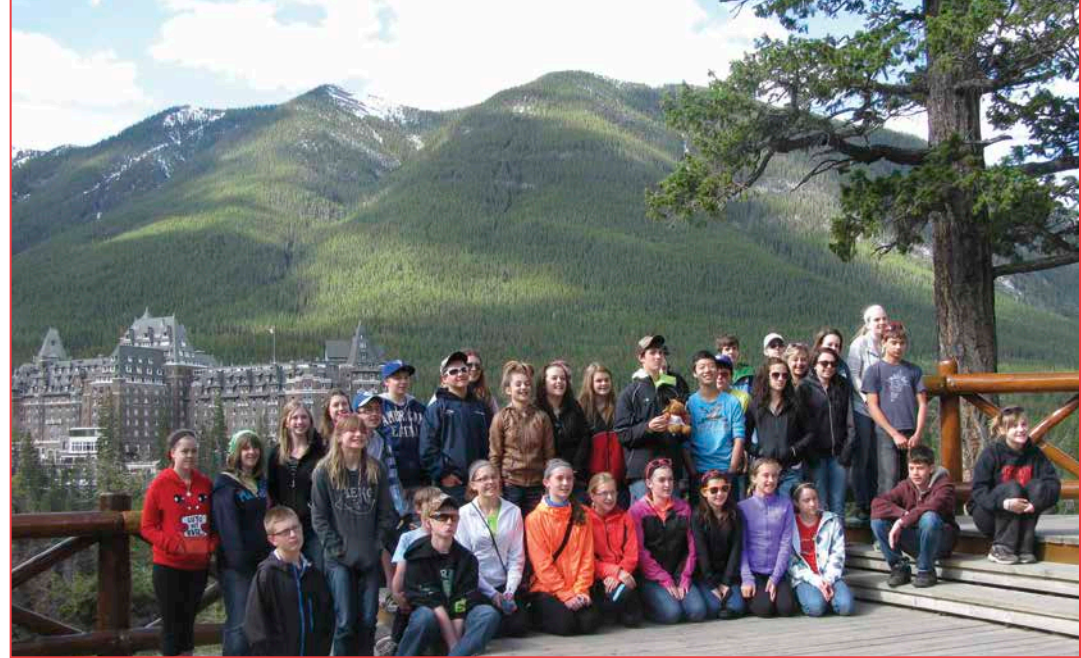
2012-2013 was a busy year for the Youth Exchanges Canada (YEC) program. A total of 179 groups, representing 4259 youth and 495 chaperones took part in SEVEC exchanges this past year.

In a world where youth have hundreds of virtual connections, a SEVEC exchange creates real, meaningful connections between young people, and solidifies their bond with Canada. Participants develop a greater understanding of our country and strengthen their sense of Canadian identity. A recent survey shows that 85% felt a closer connection to Canada as a result of their exchange, and 78% felt more proud to be Canadian.

Second language acquisition was the primary objective for 55% of all SEVEC exchanges last year. One of many such exchanges occurred between a group of French as a Second Language students from Blueberry School in Stony Plain, Alberta, who exchanged with l'École Secondaire de l'Aubier in St-Romuald, Québec. Participants practiced their second language and took part in many cultural activities including a visit to the Citadelle and the Musée de la civilisation in Québec City. While in Alberta, the students went to the Musée Héritage of St-Albert, and The Royal Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller. The outcome was impressive: 93.8% of youth who took part in a linguistic exchange last year reported that their second language skills had improved as a result.

In addition to linguistic exchanges, 180 youth and their chaperones took part in an Aboriginal exchange through SEVEC. In April 2013, students from Mother Teresa High School in Barrhaven, Ontario travelled to Cape Dorset where they spent time on the land, went ice fishing, and witnessed master soapstone carvers and world renowned print makers at work. Their Inuit twins subsequently travelled to Ottawa. They visited an Indigenous Art exhibition at the National Gallery. They met with an archivist at the Canadian Museum of History who had lived in Cape Dorset, and gave them a guided tour of the museum. The two exchange groups also met with the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Senator Vern White, and Mary Simon. Aboriginal exchanges offer a unique opportunity for youth to experience a way of life different than their own within Canada.

A SEVEC exchange weaves together an intricate lesson in history, sociology, geography, linguistics, and multiculturalism. Its participants, and our country, are much the richer for it. It is a first-hand lesson that has no equal in the classroom. The shared knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of our history, origin, and culture, are the roots of a SEVEC exchange.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE, DENNIS JACKSON

As Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee I am pleased to present the financial report for SEVEC's 77th year of operations. This year, members of the Board, staff, volunteers and donors contributed to the successful exchange experience of almost 5,000 Canadian youth.

The Youth Exchanges Canada Program remains the core business activity for SEVEC. We ended the year in a sound financial position with a surplus of \$126,672. These funds have been set aside to benefit future SEVEC programs, dedicated to Canadian youth.

This year we continued to improve operational and administrative efficiencies to ensure maximum benefit was derived from each dollar spent. In May we moved to a smaller office location, significantly reducing the leasing costs and other associated expenses.

In 2012-13 the transportation costs for youth and their chaperones totaled \$3.7M. In addition we are pleased to have provided almost \$45,000 in economic assistance to those in need. These funds directly assisted individuals that would otherwise have been unable to participate in an exchange because of economic hardship.

We extend our sincere thanks to the staff at the Exchanges Directorate, Department of Canadian Heritage, the Honourable Shelly Glover, Minister for Canadian Heritage, and her predecessor, the Honourable James Moore. Their support of Youth Exchanges Canada provides Canadian youth the opportunity to discover their identity, their country, its historical foundations and heritage.



BALANCE SHEET

August 31, 2013 with comparative figures for 2012

ASSETS	2013	2012
Current		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,205,456	\$887,252
Accounts receivable	251,116	259,263
Prepaid expenses	164,998	33,767
	<u>1,621,570</u>	<u>1,180,282</u>
Capital assets	17,210	40,506
	<u>\$1,638,780</u>	<u>\$1,220,788</u>

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Current		
Accounts payable & accrued liabilities	\$114,574	\$31,482
Deferred revenue	442,922	234,695
	<u>557,496</u>	<u>266,177</u>
Net assets		
Invested in capital assets	17,210	40,506
Internally restricted		
Contingency fund	332,052	332,052
Bursary reserve	59,000	59,000
Unrestricted net assets	673,022	523,053
	<u>1,081,284</u>	<u>954,611</u>
	<u>\$1,638,780</u>	<u>\$1,220,788</u>

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the year ended August 31, 2013

REVENUES	2013	2012
Youth Exchanges Canada Program		
Canadian Heritage contribution	\$4,497,705	\$4,234,675
Other income	182,526	219,598
Forums, Roundtables and other projects		
Youth Saluting Youth	—	107
Donations and other income	237,149	120,201
	<u>\$4,917,380</u>	<u>\$4,574,581</u>

EXPENSES

Youth Exchanges Canada Program	\$4,680,231	\$4,454,198
Forums, Roundtables and other projects		
Youth Saluting Youth	—	107
Corporate Support	110,476	94,948
	<u>4,790,707</u>	<u>4,549,253</u>
Excess of revenues over expenses for the year	\$126,673	\$25,328

The data on the right is summarized from the 2013 financial statements audited by KPMG LLP. A complete set is available on our website at www.sevec.ca

SOCIETY FOR
EDUCATIONAL
VISITS AND
EXCHANGES
IN CANADA –
CHARITABLE
REGISTRATION #
10797134RR0001



Colin Haubrich with his wife Myra, and their daughter, Justina



THE BUILDING BLOCKS THAT WERE PUT IN PLACE BACK IN 1992 ARE FUNDAMENTAL TO WHO I AM TODAY

In 1992 **Colin Haubrich**, a student at Holy Trinity Catholic High School in Kanata, Ontario went on a student exchange to Victoria, B.C. The exchange experience opened his eyes to Canada's cultural diversity. "Suburban Ottawa back then was very homogenous. I could count on one hand the students who weren't white. The experience opened my eyes to new cultures, something that would serve me well in the years ahead," he says.

While on Vancouver Island, the groups went on a leadership retreat to a neighbouring island, and learned about Haida culture. "Coming from Ottawa, I knew very little about the West Coast, let alone any Aboriginal Canadian cultures. The whole experience was new and fascinating." Colin's love of the West Coast has stayed with him and he's returned to British Columbia many times since then.

Today, Colin is a Manager at a high-tech firm in Silicon Valley. He worked for nine years in Toronto, prior to being transferred to San Jose, California. "San Jose and Toronto are very diverse cities. Developing an understanding for other cultures prepared me for my future," says Colin. "I work in a multicultural environment and my wife is from China. Our daughter is growing up with a rich heritage. We want her to have the kind of experiences I had on an exchange one day, so she can learn about her history and heritage, Canadian and Chinese, by immersing herself in the culture."



Colin Haubrich on his SEVEC exchange with his exchange twin and his sister in 1992

THANKS TO A SEVEC EXCHANGE I LIVE AND WORK IN THE CITY THAT I VISITED IN 1981

Originally from Québec city, **Nathalie Laroche** went on an exchange to British Columbia when she was in grade 9. "My host family was amazing! My English was poor and they were patient and understanding with me," says Nathalie. "Although my exchange was in Kelowna, we spent a long weekend in Vancouver; it was a real "coup de foudre"!"

As soon as Nathalie completed her teaching degree in Québec she moved to BC to teach French Immersion. That was 23 years ago. In July 2013, she took her students including her 15 year old daughter on an exchange to Québec. "I was so excited to re-live my exchange experience," says Nathalie. "It was great to introduce our BC kids to the Québécois culture, and to see the Québec youth discover the beauty and history of the West coast when we hosted them!"

Because of an exchange that took place more than 30 years ago, Nathalie now lives, works, and is raising her family in the city that she fell in love with on exchange. She is also fluent in both languages, and helping others learn French.

"I believe that every child should have the opportunity to discover Canada through an exchange," says Nathalie. "There is no better way to appreciate our history, geography, diversity, and to learn a new language. It helps you grow as a person and better appreciate Canada."



Nathalie Laroche takes youth on a linguistic exchange in 2013

A SEVEC EXCHANGE IGNITED A LOVE OF THE NORTH FOR FIRST AIR CHIEF PILOT AARON SPEER

Aaron was 15 years old when he travelled to Clyde River, NU in 1995. He had a passion for flying from a young age, and the pilots on the First Air flight invited him to join them in the cockpit. The scenery took his breath away and by the time they landed, Aaron was already dreaming of becoming a pilot for First Air.

He fell in love with the North, not only for its scenery, but for the people and close ties within the Northern communities. While on exchange, Aaron took part in the cultural activities including hunts and community feasts.

Less than 10 years later, Aaron began his career as a pilot for First Air. In 2011, he became a Chief Pilot for First Air overseeing 54 pilots, 11 aircraft and training programs for the pilots. He reflects on the exchange as a seminal moment in his life. He is still passionate about the North and although his job now keeps him tied to his desk most days, "I still have to pinch myself when I fly into Pangnirtung and see the fjords, or to Pond Inlet; I'm living my dream!" says Aaron.

After his exchange, Aaron wrote an essay on his experience which won a writing competition. He was recognized by His Excellency, the Right Honorable Roméo Leblanc, in 1996 at a ceremony at Rideau Hall.


"The North is so fundamentally different, and such a huge part of Canada," says Aaron. "An exchange is such a powerful way to connect youth to a whole new world, and to each other. You never know where that experience might lead. It opened my eyes to a part of the country that became part of my life forever."



Aaron Speer flies into Eureka airport, Nunavut



Aaron Speer, a Chief Pilot for First Air and SEVEC alumni



NEW IN 2013: THE LAUNCH OF SEVEC'S AMBASSADOR OF HISTORY AWARD



This year, we launched the SEVEC Ambassador of History Award, which celebrates an individual who has advanced his/her exchange participants' knowledge of Canadian history through a SEVEC exchange. It is inspired by the hundreds of teachers, group organizers, chaperones and parents who inspire youth to learn more about their history.

We are pleased to announce Roy Mills as SEVEC's first Ambassador for History, granted in conjunction with Canada's History and the prestigious Governor General's History Awards. Roy recently visited Ottawa for an Awards ceremony at Rideau Hall, and was recognized at the Awards Dinner.

Roy recently retired from Vegreville Composite High School, Alberta, where he participated in SEVEC exchanges for 9 years. He developed incredible programs, focusing on Canadian history, for students who travelled with him on exchanges, and those who came to Alberta. Visits to myriad historical sites and studying past events greatly enriched the lives of his students and acted as a catalyst to learn more about Canada's history. His exchanges made history come alive!

Roy demonstrates how SEVEC exchanges can be a learning instrument for history lessons. His students have gained a greater appreciation of Canada's remarkable history – one that is both romantic and tragic.

He embodies the spirit of this award and we are very pleased to recognize his efforts.

It takes hundreds of hours to put together a lifetime experience for youth. SEVEC has various initiatives to recognize these efforts and share our success stories.



William Morris is the 2012 recipient of the SEVEC Ambassador Award. He is an Educational Assistant at Rideau District High School where he has been teaching for over 20 years, working with grade 9-12 students with special needs. William is actively involved in school and community life, and is a strong believer of the power of exchanges. He has organized seven (7) SEVEC exchanges, providing students from Rideau District High School with unparalleled learning opportunities. According to his fellow group organizers, "William epitomizes a SEVEC group organizer. He is dedicated, organized and driven." William's most recent exchange took place in May 2012 in Canning, Nova Scotia.

"William has ensured that students from a small rural community have had the opportunity to take part in an exchange regardless of their financial situation," says Sharon Halladay, Principal at Rideau District High School. "He is a great leader and passionate teacher with an abiding desire to expand his students' knowledge about their country, its culture and its history."



Mr. William Morris, Educational Assistant at Rideau District High School, received the 2012 SEVEC Ambassador Award. From left to right, Mr. Gordon Brown, Member of Parliament for Leeds-Grenville, Mr. William Morris and Mayor of the Township of Rideau-Lakes, Mr. Ron Holman.

FOOTSTEPS ACROSS CANADA

Each year thousands of Canadian youth create footsteps throughout Canada while on a SEVEC exchange. Beyond learning about their country and its history and heritage, youth are also exercising each day when on an exchange. We asked our participants this year to track their footsteps and submit their results to win an iPad.

This year, the 1st North Gower Pathfinders who went on exchange to Trail, BC are the winners of Footsteps Across Canada – Congratulations!



SEVEC THE MOOSE PHOTO CONTEST

Launched in 2012-2013, SEVEC participants are now taking the moose across Canada on exchange and sharing their photos with us. SEVEC the Moose has travelled to hundreds of communities, and taken part in many cultural activities across the country. This year's SEVEC the Moose contest winners are:



*Best group shot:
Havergal College, Toronto, ON*



*Best historical shot:
Blueberry School, Stony Plain, AB*



*Best Canadian shot:
École secondaire de Mirabel, QC*



MESSAGE FROM REBECCA FRENCH, YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESIDENT FOR 2012-2013

Growing up in Newfoundland in a family who did not travel much, I always wondered what was beyond the island. My SEVEC exchange provided me with the opportunity to discover new places in Canada and what lay to the west of Newfoundland. My life has changed in so many ways since my exchange when I visited Rose Valley, Saskatchewan. I gained an appreciation for a way of life so different from my own. Leaving my province which is surrounded by water and travelling to the prairies where there was no water but fields of wheat was the first of many eye openers that week!

I applied to join the Youth Advisory Committee (frequently referred to as "YAC") to further my involvement with SEVEC and Youth Exchanges Canada. The SEVEC Youth Advisory Committee is made up of youth from across Canada who have previously participated in a SEVEC exchange. Members participate on the Committee for two years, and provide SEVEC with input and recommendations to improve experiences for youth.

The YAC has provided me with an opportunity to meet other youth from all over Canada. I have gained more self-confidence, having to present and practice my public speaking on many occasions. As the YAC functions in both official languages, I have also practiced my second language. We also have members from diverse backgrounds and heritage, and I have learned more about many cultures.

As President of the YAC, I can attest to the motivation and energy of our committee. In 2012-2013, members of our Youth Advisory Committee accomplished all the goals we had established in November 2012. We created Provincial and Territorial fact sheets that were distributed to students going on exchange.

We have promoted the program through social media including Facebook and Twitter, and presented at schools and conferences in our individual communities.

We are sad to say goodbye to YAC alumni who are moving on, but know we will always stay in contact through our shared experiences.

We are excited to welcome ten new members to the team, and work with them in the coming year to achieve new heights for SEVEC.

Thank you SEVEC and the Department of Canadian Heritage for giving me and thousands of other youth across the country the experience of a lifetime!

Rebecca French



SEVEC 2012-2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As Chair of the Board of Directors, I have the distinct privilege of working with a group of dedicated fellow Directors to further the goals of SEVEC as a facilitator of exchanges for Canadian youth from coast to coast to coast.

Ours is a truly national board consisting of individuals from each region of our country. Moreover each Director brings his or her own unique talents and background so that SEVEC continues to serve Canadian youth on exchanges.

The Board remains focussed on employing the best governance policies and practices to ensure SEVEC is an effective steward of its resources. Moreover, the Board is committed to ensure SEVEC continues to provide opportunities for our youth to experience first-hand through an exchange, the rich heritage and cultural diversity that is modern Canada.

Don Neeland



Christie Brown
Lachine, QC



Katherine d'Entremont
Fredericton, NB



Lewis Evans
Sherbrooke, QC



Kyle Hill
Toronto, ON



Leah Murray
Calgary, AB



Cristina Peralejo
Vancouver, BC



Barry McGowan
Shawville, QC



Don Neeland
Edmonton, AB



Nancy Pynch-Worthylake
Bridgewater, NS



Dennis Jackson
Ottawa, ON





THE SEVEC TEAM

SEVEC is dedicated to making the exchange experience come true for thousands of Canadian youth each year. Based in Ottawa, our team is committed to facilitating safe, educational exchanges that create meaningful connections between young Canadians and their country, and help establish the roots for learning about Canadian history, cultures, languages and more.

From left to right:

Sandrine Thabet, Jamie McCullough, Françoise Gagnon, Heather Daly, Ginny Byrne, Anne Smith and Jessica Simmins

NEW IN 2013: SEVEC'S TEACHER'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

SEVEC is committed to continuously enhancing the development and delivery of its' Youth Exchanges program. In an effort to ensure support for participating teachers and their students, and to provide SEVEC with strategic direction, SEVEC has developed and launched the Teacher Advisory Council "TAC".

The TAC provides Teachers and Group Organizers a forum for advising and making recommendations to SEVEC on promotional and recruitment strategies, sharing and addressing issues of concerns to improve programming, developing best practices, as well as contributing to SEVEC Newsletters, Alumni Forums and other publications.

Members have been selected from across Canada, based on their experience as a Group Organizer of SEVEC exchanges. Members include Charlene Dobie and Cristina Peralejo (BC), Roy Mills (AB), Korrie Hopper (MB), Chuck Daly, Jennifer Martinez and Pat Watson (ON), Carl Hardy and Barry McGowan (QC), Paul McCarron (PE), and Anne Slauenwhite (NS).

SEVEC is proud to partner with and have the support from each of the TAC members, and we look forward to their input in developing exciting initiatives in the coming year.



WE'VE MOVED

SEVEC'S HEAD OFFICE IN OTTAWA HAS CHANGED LOCATIONS.

On May 1, 2013 we said goodbye 950 Gladstone Avenue and relocated to 201-1150 Morrison Drive.

Conscious of the current fiscal realities of today's economy, this move will allow SEVEC the opportunity to better manage costs.

We have reduced our office space by half, and the new location is well-designed, energy efficient space, and easily accessible from the Queensway.

SEVEC SURVEY 2012-2013

SEVEC conducted a survey of its youth exchange participants to measure the impact of their exchanges, the benefits of participating in SEVEC exchanges and satisfaction with their experiences. This will ensure that SEVEC continues to meet the needs and expectations of youth involved in all facets of its programming. Here are several highlights:



The homestay experience

95% who participated in the homestay experience say they felt welcomed by the family they stayed with during their exchange. Staying with their twin's family, and having their twin stay with them, enriched their exchange experience.



"I enjoyed it SO much!! The minute I got off the bus, I was welcomed by my twin and her mother as if I was already family. Their house was beautiful, they were lovely people, and they made sure to include me and make me feel like part of the family."

Diversity

90% said that as a result of their exchange, they better understand the differences in people and cultures in Canada.

"It helped me to learn more about how other families of my country act at home, their habits and their language which is different of mine!"

Linguistic Exchanges

93.8% of participants improved their second-language skills on exchange and 90.3% indicated they feel more confident speaking their second language as a result of their exchange.



"They made great efforts to help me learn French and if I got confused they made me feel comfortable by attempting it in English!"



Knowledge of Canadian History

82% of survey participants increased their knowledge of Canadian history by preparing for their exchange and by being on exchange.

As a result of their exchange 87% developed a greater understanding of the history of the province/community they visited.



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

When asked what part of Canada they would visit next, the Land of Anne of Green Gables was the top destination. This was followed by British Columbia, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.



JE PARLE ...
YOU UNDERSTAND

In 2012-2013, linguistic/bilingual exchanges comprised 55% of all SEVEC exchanges

DID YOU KNOW?



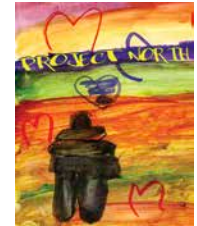
More than half of our participants have told us they want to participate in an Aboriginal exchange to learn about Aboriginal cultures and peoples in Canada.

Facebook is the preferred method of communication for SEVEC's youth participants.



Youth overwhelmingly reported Facebook as their most likely method of keeping in touch with their twin and other youth they met on exchange. It was approximately three times as high as the other popular methods: text-messaging, email and Skype.

SEVEC WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL MEMBERS, DONORS AND
THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT:



SEVEC is supported by:



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