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please contact the  
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# Success in Changing TRF's Literacy & Education Policy!

At the CRCID 2011 Annual General Meeting, the CRCID Members unanimously approved a resolution requesting The Rotary Foundation to change their definition for basic education to include grades 1 to 12 (or equivalent). CRCID is proud to announce that after only a few short months this advocacy initiative was successful!

The Trustees of TRF have now revised the definition enabling clubs implementing literacy and education projects targeting students between grades 1 and 12 (or equivalent) to be eligible for global/matching grant funds. The policy had restricted literacy and education funding only up to Grade 6, omitting funding for projects targeting students between grade 7 and 12.

On behalf of the Rotary Clubs and the Secondary School students who will benefit from the revision of TRF's policy, CRCID thanks its Members and Canadian DG's for their support.

**A-12-b.** Report of the Future Vision Committee: Areas of Focus and Global Grants Updates DECISION: The Trustees Amend the definition of the basic education and literacy area of focus as follows: Support activities and training to improve universal primary education for all children and literacy for children and adults.

*Be the change you wish to see in the world.*—M. Gandhi

## Program Honoured by RI President Elect

The Ripple Effect is being invited by RI President Elect Sakuji Tanaka to hold an exhibit at the 2012 International Assembly Projects Fair in San Diego. The purpose of the project fair is for District Governor Elects and spouses to learn about successful Rotary projects around the world with the idea that they can then collaborate with these projects or replicate them in some way with their districts.

The Projects Fair features effective service projects that demonstrate the global span of Rotary. Exhibiting at the International Assembly is an outstanding opportunity for the project to gain visibility and support and will be seen by District Governor Elects, current and incoming RI Board members, and Trustees of The Rotary Foundation, and their spouses.



CRCID Program Coordinators Gord and Deb LeMaistre are honoured that the Ripple Effect has been recognized as a successful Rotary Program that illustrates Service above Self and beyond. The exhibit will be displayed on Wednesday January 18, 2012.



# A stonger, more focused organization

## President's Message

In the February 1932 issue of *The Rotarian*, Paul Harris wrote, "The sailing of a boat in fair weather is not the best test of seamanship; the maintenance of cheer when everything is coming one's way is not the best test of disposition; the pursuit of an enemy who is on the run is not the best test of courage". CRCID's history reflects the impact challenges have had on our "seamanship", "disposition" and "courage". They have resulted in a stronger, more focused organization, better prepared to serve and support our "customers".

At the May 2011 AGM CRCID's membership advanced a strong appeal to the Trustees of TRF to amend the criteria for global grants to ensure access to education for children up to and including grade 12 (or equivalent). The supportive response by the majority of our 23 districts, through various measures, provided the incentive necessary for the Trustees to extend accessibility to grants as proposed by CRCID. Thank you for your confidence in our "seamanship".

CRCID's duo of Morgan Shortt and Megan MacLean played a pivotal role in making a recent visit to the **Ripple Effect Program** in Guatemala a major success. This was CRCID's first 'on site' testing of gender equality and environmental initiatives in a host country. Reports from Morgan and Megan and the Program Coordinators Gord and Deb LeMaistre, were mutually

complimentary. This excursion into Guatemalan culture was an eye-opening opportunity which will see a strengthening of the Ripple Effect as well as enhance CRCID's administrative support to programs. It was a gentle test of our "disposition".

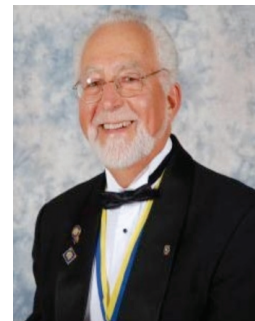
At our September directors meeting, we were challenged to examine our Strategic Plan. The Directors reaffirmed our position as an organization that "facilitates" the implementation of Rotary based programs and projects. Related to being a facilitating organization, the Directors gave strong support to developing partnerships with Canada incorporated **Rotarian Action Groups** (RAGs). This is a new program model for CRCID and a test of our "courage". Because RAGs have the knowledge and expertise to work with host country stakeholders at the national level, they would take the lead in developing sustainable poverty reduction programs in partnership with the host country government. However, in keeping with RI policy, RAGs are only allowed to facilitate the implementation of the program and therefore it falls to Rotary clubs to actually implement the project or program. This would be a new CRCID/RAG/Rotary Club partnership. There is expressed interest in this development by a number of RAGs which has led to CRCID and the Microcredit RAG (RAGM) signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This MoU sets the stage for developing a partnership to meet the



organizational objectives of both organizations while providing an expanded window for Rotary Clubs and Districts interested in pursuing microcredit opportunities. Therefore, as part of CRCID's call for program applications for the next funding cycle (April 2013-March 2016), CRCID will also accept applications from Rotarian Action Groups (a maximum of 2 RAGs will be approved).

I believe CRCID combines dedicated seamanship, a positive disposition and a courageous outlook as we move forward. I close by wishing everyone a peace filled Holiday season. May 2012 gift you with health and happiness.

Warm Rotary Regards,



**Peter H. Peters**  
President, CRCID



# CRCID Sends Staff to Guatemala's Ripple Effect

CRCID's Environmental Specialist Megan MacLean and Gender Specialist Morgan Shortt visited Guatemala in October of this year. Both staff members are Program Officers for CRCID and traveled to Guatemala to visit the Ripple Effect's Project Schools with two major goals; Environmental Monitoring and Evaluation and Gender Assessment testing.

## Gender

"The journey into the assessed schools really showcased the benefits of simply involving the local community in these conversations. By involving locals who otherwise may not feel included, we have encouraged ownership and empowerment amongst them. The assessments given in Guatemala were proof of this, and it was specifically visible with the women's focus groups. I was testing a newly developed Gender Assessment and to my surprise I returned to Canada with very few changes to the documents. Rebecca from Hearts & Hands assisted me in translation for several assessments. Her response to this process was not only exciting but reassuring that the results of the assessment were quite positive and successful. She (local to Guatemala) was surprised with the results of the questions related to access and control. The response from participating facilitators was amazing! Each of them were excited about how enjoyable the process was and continued to talk about it for days at a time.



The Guatemalan Gender Assessments provided CRCID with a confidence in the Ripple Effect and in its ability to consider gender equity a priority. The interest shown by the Program Coordinators in the assessment process gives assurance that they will follow through and implement the assessment process into their programs.

From a personal perspective the journey was most enjoyable. It was a pleasure to get to know the Program

Coordinators Gord and Deb LeMaistre. It is really nice to add a personal flavour to our relationship. The children and women as always are an inspiration and a reminder to why we sit at our desks each day. The experience of having an "interesting" hairstyle as a conversation icebreaker will always be remembered as entertaining. Overall, I am grateful for the opportunity that CRCID has provided. "

**Morgan Shortt**  
Program Officer  
Gender Specialist

## Environment

"I was very excited at the opportunity to visit the Ripple Effect Program for many reasons. Of course, I was happy to have the medium for testing the Environmental Monitoring and

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Evaluation tools, but I was lucky to have the added benefit of visiting schools that I have heard so much about for many months, as well to get to know Program Coordinators Gord and Deb [LeMaistre] much better.

Even then, the trip proved to be more rewarding than I had originally thought! I was able to test the Environmental Monitoring and Evaluation tools at 16 different locations, which varied significantly in their community size, construction phase, project size etc., giving me a wide range of situations to observe. This was especially beneficial because these Environmental tools need to be designed to be used for all sorts of different projects and by different

people. Because I was able to test the tools in diverse situations, I was able to determine that they still need alteration before they can be widely used. Even though that means some more work for me, I am very happy that this was discovered before distributing it for use in the field.

In addition to accomplishing the field testing goal, it was an absolute pleasure to travel with the Program Coordinators, meet the in-country partners and spend time with the recipient communities. Everyone that we met was so enthusiastic and dedicated to the Ripple Effect Program – and nothing can make you love your job more than seeing the smiles on all those students' faces!"



**Megan MacLean**  
Program Officer  
Environmental Specialist

## CRCID and RAGM sign Memorandum of Understanding

The historic signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between CRCID and the Rotarian Action Group for Microcredit (RAGM) took place on Saturday October 22, 2011. This meeting was hosted by Lynn Bird, CRCID Monitor and Coordinator for the 2012 D.7070 Conference. The signing was attended by Kevin Webb and PDG Lars Henriksson representing CRCID and PDG Steve Rickard; Gordon Crann; Annemarie Pallister; and, Jim Louttit representing RAGM.

The signing of the MOU represents the first step in the development of a new cooperative partnership between CRCID and RAGM. RAGM is now researching the probability of

developing an Economic and Community Development program in a developing country that will meet CRCID's and CIDA's funding criteria.

As a follow-up to the signing of the MOU, Chief Administrative Officer, Kevin Webb, and incoming RAGM President Gordon Crann met with CIDA officials on November 22, 2011 to discuss CIDA's microcredit guidelines for developing country programming. If a program is developed and approved by CRCID and CIDA, it will be implemented by Canadian Rotary clubs partnering with host country Rotary clubs who will have access to CRCID matching funds.



CRCID CAO Kevin Webb and President Steve Rickard shake hands after signing MOU



# Afghanistan School Creates Change in Canada



While girls and boys continue to be educated at the new school in Afghanistan, Rotarians across Canada have been visiting Canadian High Schools and spreading awareness about cultural differences and on the development efforts of Rotary and Canada in Afghanistan. We are proud to say that this campaign has changed lives. One high school student was so inspired by the program that she changed her university focus from a teacher's degree to an international development degree focusing on political science. In addition to raising awareness and creating an appreciation in our young Canadians, Rotary has raised an amazing \$306,446!

People continue to sign the online guestbook which showcases the impact that this program has had on individuals across the country. Please feel free to sign or read the guestbook entries at:

[www.AfghanistanSchool.ca](http://www.AfghanistanSchool.ca)

## Guestbook Samples:

*Hey Guys,  
Just wanted to tell you how much of an inspiration you are to us in the western world. Your love of learning and hope for a future is truly inspirational to all of us.*

Written By: Jon  
From: Delta, BC

*Hey,  
I hope school is going well. The education program here is pretty good, but many take it for granted. Are you learning English? I hope you can read this. I do hope that our two countries can become allies. Have a good time at school!*

Written By: Jake  
From: Delta, BC

## Have You Already Given a Presentation?

If you have given a presentation please inform CRCID if you have not already done so. This will allow us to track our successes. Contact Morgan at CRCID to request an Audience Report. [mshortt@crcid.org](mailto:mshortt@crcid.org)

## Breaking News from Belize

On October 26, 2011 the 9<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Belize constitution was signed into law. This amendment ensures that all public utilities, specifically the telecommunication company, Belize Telemedia Limited (BTL); the Belize Electricity Limited (BEL), and the Belize Water Services Limited (BWSL) remain majority-owned, by the Government of Belize.

The Belize Literacy Program ([belizeliteracy.com](http://belizeliteracy.com)), organized and conducted by Rotarians from District 5370 and Rotarians from the clubs in Belize, has welcomed the assistance and cooperation of Belize Telemedia Limited (BTL) in extending internet services to schools throughout the country. This project has supplied computers and software to some of the teachers who have participated in teacher training programs taught by Canadian and Belizean teachers.

The participants and stakeholders in The Belize Literacy Program have continued to recognize the need for universal high capacity internet access for all students and teachers and look forward to working with our partners, the Ministry of Education and BTL to give schools wireless access to the internet so that these young people can use a variety of computing devices in their learning programs.



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