

NEWS ABOUT WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT

October 2005



Marguerite Bergeron-Tremblay, left, Dr. Norma E. Walmsley, O.C., and Joan Garnett at MATCH's 25th anniversary celebration at the Governor-General's reception in Ottawa in 2001.

Tribute to the Late Marguerite Bergeron-Tremblay - "The Difference of One"

In 1978, MATCH's first Executive Director, Jane Henderson, and I travelled to Western and Eastern Canada to publicize our new organization. When Jane spoke on a French radio station in Montréal, the program caught the attention of listener Marguerite Bergeron-Tremblay in Alma in the Lac St-Jean area of Quebec, and there began what would be her 26-year association with our organization.

Over the years, Marguerite became a legend as she rallied her friends to regularly support her projects and her ideas to raise money for MATCH activities overseas.

In 1980, she was one of a small group of Canadian women that I invited to make a

presentation in Copenhagen at the UN Mid-Decade Conference for Women. I had also arranged to bring to the conference women from "Third World" countries, and together they described in their own words the projects on which they were collaborating.

In the years following her return from Denmark, Marguerite worked continuously in her community – raising money and awareness. She attended MATCH meetings in Ottawa whenever she could and kept in touch with my colleagues and me with personal letters.

Marguerite passed away on August 15, 2004. I miss her greatly.

We rejoice in the contribution she made to her family and to those around her over the years. And, particularly, I know that Marguerite was an inspiration to everyone at MATCH and was truly able to make "the difference of one" in our world.

Norma E. Walmsley, O.C.
 Founding President
 MATCH International Centre

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Women, Reconciliation and Reconstruction

By Akua Kuenyehia, First Vice President, International Criminal Court

[The following is an excerpt from Ms. Kuenyehia's speech at MATCH's 2004 AGM. We are grateful for her presentation].

The participation of women in peace-building efforts in order to achieve lasting peace is essential. However, this participation can only take place if women's situation in armed conflict is recognized in legal instruments, adjudicated in justice and truth-seeking mechanisms and implemented in all humanitarian, peacekeeping and peace-building actions following an armed conflict. Women have a distinct situation in armed conflict as victims, as participants and as peace activists.

As victims, for example, women and girls in many conflict-affected countries are the most vulnerable due to their roles in fetching water from a well or getting firewood for cooking and generally looking after the family. These become dangerous tasks that expose them to crossfire. Women also suffer from sexual violence during armed conflicts. In many communities, women's bodies have been used as weapons of war, as a means to disgrace and humiliate the opposing faction.

But women are not only victims of armed conflicts. Sometimes, together with their male counterparts, they participate as direct or indirect agents in armed conflicts. Some women believe in the political or ideological causes of the warring factions and voluntarily decide to become part of the armed forces. On the other hand, many other women are direct participants in the conflict by being abducted as soldiers, or are subject to propaganda, indoctrination and underage recruitment campaigns.

Many other women also participate as peace activists and peacekeepers through their own experiences as family and community leaders. Through their families, women often help bring together opposing factions since, frequently, members of the same family are part of different warring parties.

Finally, women can participate in bringing armed conflicts to an end through international organizations, both at the top policy and decision-making levels as well as at the grassroots level through efforts supported by these organizations.

Once the particular situation of women in armed conflict is acknowledged, the process of adjudication at the national, as well as the international level, is one of the steps towards achieving long-lasting peace. Adjudication takes place when women are not forgotten and are enabled to play an active role in the justice process that legally and impartially deals with past abuses. Only then do women get a sense of healing as their grievances are redressed in formal and informal mechanisms for resolving conflicts and women get a sense of justice as appropriate penalties are imposed on perpetrators. Finally, adjudication occurs when women receive restorative justice, including restitution, compensation and rehabilitation, proportional to the damage, loss or injury suffered, and women become participants in the peace process.

In this sense, ad hoc tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, as well as the recently established Special Court of Sierra Leone, have played an important role in redressing gender crimes and confirming that sexual violence is a weapon of war and an instrument of terror. These tribunals have condemned sexual crimes as war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.



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MATCH is a non-profit, non-governmental development agency that concentrates its support on women through overseas project funding and education in Canada.

The aim of this publication is to engender thought and discussion about various development issues. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of MATCH as an organization and are those of the author(s) alone.

MATCH is committed, with our Southern sisters, to a feminist vision of development. Such a vision requires the eradication of all forms of injustice, particularly the exploitation and marginalization of women.

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A major step in the adjudication process has undoubtedly been the establishment of the International Criminal Court. The Rome Statute, along with the Rules of Procedure and Evidence and the Elements of Crimes, recognize such crimes as rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy among others as the most serious crimes under international law.

To establish enduring peace, women and men must work together equally and fully in post-conflict reconstruction. Any effort for genuine peace must encompass human rights and justice, good governance and sustainable development underpinned by equal opportunities for women and men at all levels.



MATCH supporter Uzma Shakir (left), author Margaret Atwood, and then MATCH President Ceta Ramkhalwansingh at a fundraiser reading in Toronto for MATCH's Tsunami Fund.

President's Report

MATCH is nearly 30 years old – three decades of continued service aimed at achieving a world that guarantees the rights of women. Even with limited resources, MATCH has continued its accomplishments but our overseas partners are even more astonishing in their results. We began the current term remembering the loss of Rosemary Brown and Salma Sobhan, two extraordinary women who worked with MATCH for many years, and planning for the departure of Executive Director Madonna Larbi who provided 12 years of outstanding service.

Two new members joined our Board last year, Effie Simpson-Ekuban from Ghana, Africa and Jane Heron from British Columbia, Canada. Our Board members come from all regions where MATCH has partners –

Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Latin America. In addition to Effie Simpson-Ekuban who lives in Ghana; Isabel Duque, a MATCH Vice President, hails from Chile and assists with MATCH's work in Latin America; Judith Wedderburn, works out of Kingston, Jamaica in the Caribbean while Urvashi Butalia is from Asia and lives in New Delhi, India. Yvonne Sinkevich, MATCH's new President, has homes in Alberta and BC, while co-founder Suzanne Johnson lives part of the year in Arizona and Toronto, and Nkiru Nzegwu works out of Binghamton, New York, often travelling to Africa. Long-time MATCH supporter and a former President, Stella LeJohn continues to lead an active team in Winnipeg. Lene Madsen, now Vice President, who many years ago was a MATCH staffer, and I both work in Toronto. The role of staff representative to the Board was filled by Darlene Macleod who was succeeded by Eloisa Martinez, who is leaving MATCH to work for IDRC.

As a Board we have depended on our Ottawa staff to carry out MATCH's mission with our partners. Dr. Guenet Guebre-Selassie, Maria Otarola, Indira Bondy and Terri Jones were at the heart of MATCH's work during the staff changes that took place last year. Anita Wong "graduated" from MATCH to take on new challenges and Darlene McLeod continues to be our amazing Finance Officer. As well, we are fortunate to have students, volunteers and a few consultants to help us support our overseas partners.

Last year we reported that MATCH had signed a new three-year agreement with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), approved a new strategic plan, ended the year without a deficit and relocated the MATCH office.

Faced with the effects of the Indian Ocean Tsunami, the Board decided that a special initiative would be undertaken to provide resources to women in the region to ensure that they had a place at the table during the planning for construction efforts. Margaret Atwood, Canada's leading writer, hosted a reading at Massey College at the University of Toronto for MATCH supporters to help launch our Tsunami Fund efforts. Later this past spring, we learnt that the employees of VanCity designated MATCH as one of two Canadian agencies to receive funding. These special funds will be part of a special project in Sri Lanka to support women's participation in the reconstruction process. We are fortunate to have the expertise of former MATCH staff, Marnie Girvan and Madonna Larbi, who have been enlisted to help with this project.

Previous initiatives continue to bear fruit. The dialogue that began in 2003 in Ghana between Latin American women of African heritage and African women has continued and the Latin American portion

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of this dialogue will be documented. A film, based on co-founder Norma Walmsley's work, is being planned by Stella LeJohn and MATCH's loyal supporters in Winnipeg. Under the leadership of Effie in Ghana and Judith in Jamaica, MATCH is continuing our work on NEPAD and will maintain a watching brief on the Millennium Development Goals, Make Poverty History and the G8 summit.

We have continued to honour contributions made by Norma Walmsley, Rosemary Brown and Suzanne Johnson through the scholarships and bursaries made in their names to Carleton University in Ottawa, Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, and the Institute for Women's Studies and Gender Studies at the University of Toronto.

Our accomplishments this past year have been achieved through the efforts of all members of the MATCH family – partners, donors, Board members, members, volunteers and staff team. We know that we can't rest as "a woman's work is never done", but we also know that "wherever there is a woman, there is hope".

Ceta Ramkhalawansingh
President (2004-2005) and now
Past President/Treasurer

Monitoring Reports

AFRICA

MATCH International Centre's Programme Officer for Africa had the opportunity to monitor MATCH's Francophone Africa programme region. The monitoring trip lasted three weeks, from October 1-20, 2004. Three Western African countries were visited: Togo, Senegal and Mali.

The first stop was in Togo to meet with MATCH's partner, Groupe de réflexion et d'action Femme Démocratie et Développement (GF2D). The GF2D is a group of activist women lawyers, physicians, teachers, social workers and business women who, since 1992, have had a vision to see all Togolese women assume their rightful place as citizens – citizens free of society's obstacles imposed on them due to their gender. GF2D works towards women gaining decision-making positions at all levels of the social strata through capacity-building activities. This organization, in partnership with MATCH, initiated the capacity building of women through the "Village Development Committees" project. The project informed women about their rights and responsibilities – important issues related to their own community life – and it taught them skills related to speaking in public. The

project objectives have been achieved because the community now appreciates the active involvement of women. As a result, the community has been able to accomplish more and there is great harmony in the community about issues that need to be solved together.

The second country visited was Senegal. MATCH's partner there is the Women's Bureau of the Collectif National de Pêcheurs Artisanaux du Senegal (CNPS). The CNPS is a union representing people involved in community-based inshore fishing activities. Fishing constitutes the major economic activity in Senegal. This community-based fishing activity mobilizes about 600,000 people and it contributes to 78% of the total unloading of fish. It provides 95% of the local market's need and 50% of the supply of the fish-processing industries. Women play a major role in the traditional fish-processing activities, salting, drying and smoking fish. These women are organized as part of the CNPS as the Women's Bureau of Joäl. The main issues of these women are poor working conditions and weak purchasing power due to extreme poverty. MATCH supported the Women's Bureau of Joäl in two ways: first by assisting in the development of the fish processing activity (building smoking ovens, drying racks, cold storage units and washing tubs); and second, in assisting fish processors in exporting their products to neighbouring countries.

Finally, our trip brought us to Mali. In Mali, we visited two of MATCH's partners: the Association pour le progrès et la défense des droits des femmes maliennes (APDF) and the Association des enseignantes de Koulikoro (ASFENK).

The ASFENK initiated outreach to youths who do not have access to school and are at risk. The project targets migrant domestic workers coming from the surrounding villages of Koulikoro city to earn a living for themselves and their family. These young women are a vulnerable group and potentially exposed to economic, physical, psychological and sexual abuse. These young women do not have access to the mainstream services and information support systems, which girls of their age would usually obtain. The project aims to empower these young women through a literacy program, as well as through sharing of knowledge and information, and raising awareness on matters of concern to them. The project also involves the community at large and the villages the young women come from through radio programs, the creation of satellite groups in the villages and by organizing meetings on different community occasions. Despite the success of this project, poverty necessitates that youth contribute to their own upbringing, to assist their families or to provide for their dowry.

The second partner we visited in Mali was APDF. MATCH partners since 1994, APDF benefited from a



long association with MATCH as a major player on issues of gender and violence against women in Mali. Whereas many NGOs (non-governmental organizations) have gender as a component of their programming, APDF is the main women's organization advocating for the promotion of women's rights. It is a high-profile organization with branches in all the economic regions of Mali: Kayes, Koulikoro, Sokouso, Segou, Mopti and Tombouctou. The strength of this organization is its broad-based membership and very dynamic president, Fatoumata Sire Diakite. The partnership with APDF has been mutually fruitful and came to an end as of March 2005. In Ms. Diakite's opinion, the partnership was guided by mutual respect and MATCH's sensitivity and understanding of its partner priorities. APDF has now grown into a major organization involved in community development, both locally and internationally, and is now able to successfully attract financial support from other organizations. Pairing with APDF has allowed MATCH to develop a partnership that shares a similar vision of improving the status of women in Mali.

THE CARIBBEAN

The monitoring trip for the Caribbean took place in April 2005.

Jamaica faces many challenges on the social, economic and political fronts. Given the island's geographic location and population size (2.6 million), Jamaica is of geo-political influence in terms of promoting regional security and economic development. As a result of Hurricane Ivan, Jamaica's economy declined over the last year with a growth rate of nearly 1.5%. The agricultural sector was particularly hard hit.

Jamaica continues to face serious social issues, particularly in the poor inner cities. For example, there were close to 1,500 murders in 2004.

MATCH partner S-Corner Clinic and Community Development Organization (S-Corner Clinic) is located in an inner city area of Kingston called Bennettland, home to approximately 5,500 people. This is a typical inner city that has all of the common threads of poverty, such as high youth unemployment, cramped housing quarters, poor infrastructure and gang warfare. In this environment, young people look to gain fast money as a way out of the poverty. However, many citizens are law-abiding and hard-working and crave a chance to have conditions in their community improved. NGOs such as S-Corner Clinic provide not only basic medical care such as immunizations and family planning, but also counselling on maternal health, nutrition, and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and other diseases. In addition to addressing development issues, the Clinic aids in peacemaking efforts.

The Clinic is currently undergoing renovations due to a fallen tree on the roof from last year's Hurricane Ivan. As a result, service and activities of the Clinic have moved to an adjoining building.

Praised and admired in the community for its efforts to promote community development and peace as well as provide basic medical care, the core of S-Corner staff is led by Angela Stultz, the Director, who is assisted by a small operation staff along with part-time community nurses and outreach workers. Through the efforts of S-Corner Clinic, a summer concert was planned to bring together entertainers to the community to help build peace. Of particular note are the weekly rap sessions held by S-Corner Clinic where people discuss community issues.

S-Corner responded to discussions with community youth about employment opportunities with a new initiative to train youth in areas of videography, hairdressing, cosmetology and music engineering. MATCH will fund this initiative to help youth acquire marketable skills quickly.

S-Corner's strength and appeal lie in its ability to identify issues affecting the community, respect the suggestions and aspirations of community members and work with them to make things happen.

Another Jamaican partner, Women's Media Watch, works on gender sensitization and raising awareness of women's rights. A typical women's NGO, this group is led by a dynamic coordinator and trainer, Hilary Nicholson, who is ably assisted by mainly volunteer trainers and Board members, as well as a talented CUSO co-operant who has helped to put the newsletter on the Web and improve other communication materials.

One of the highlights of the monitoring trip was the participation in a rural workshop led by WMW in the town of Old Harbour. This workshop offered insights into the traditional roles men still believed women should play in the home and in society. Despite this, it was enlightening to see men purchase booklets on gender roles to share in their communities and it proved the strength of WMW's work in the area of gender sensitization even among traditional men in rural areas.

A new project, St. Thomas Women's Agricultural Initiative (STWAI) is a 12-hectare farm situated in the parish of St. Thomas, surrounded by rolling hills an hour's drive southeast of Kingston. St. Thomas is one of the oldest parishes on the island and has a population of nearly 93,000 people. The farm is owned and operated by local women farmers, with assistance from many sources including MATCH. The women plant cassava and plantain as well as maintain a small kitchen garden for themselves. In addition to their own experience as farmers, the women have been receiving technical training in organic methods and irrigation as well as in marketing and management skills.



MATCH is helping primarily with fencing of the farm and other basic necessities. **Leonie Sawyers**, STWAI President and one of the farmers, is excited about expanding the farm to include basic storage facilities, a greenhouse and a vehicle to take produce to market.

LATIN AMERICA

The Programme Officer for Latin America monitored MATCH's projects in Chile and Peru from October 10-29, 2004. It was a needed undertaking, as the previous monitoring took place in 2000.

In Chile, the Coordinadora Nacional Indianista (CONACIN) is flourishing and carrying out many projects in Cerro Blanco (White Hill), attracting young and old, mainstream Chileans and native alike. The ceremonies, rites, healing sessions and teachings are open to everyone and foster principles of tolerance and respect for all peoples. CONACIN is grateful for MATCH's trust in their vision, which allowed the organization to strengthen to the point where it can now sustain itself. It was a very special moment when the CONACIN Executive Director told MATCH's Programme Officer that the support they received could now be deferred to other groups who might need a little "push" to take off.

The economic situation in Peru remains in desperate need of improvement as poverty levels rise. Some positive changes have taken place, such as the creation of a governmental body to help address issues facing First Nation Peoples, including Afro-Peruvians.

MATCH's partner ASONEDH has filled all the important jobs available to Afro Peruvians at the National Development Institute of Andean, Amazon and Afro-Peruvian Peoples. These positions put ASONEDH in a leading role to organize and articulate the concerns of Afro Peruvians. The President, the Executive Director and the Coordinator of Women's Programmes now have access to information and resources used by the Afro Peruvian population.

Rosa Dueñas from La Voz de la Mujer celebrated her birthday with a big communal party. Many government representatives attended the event. Ms. Dueñas gave an eloquent speech on behalf of the more vulnerable sectors of society (women and children) and urged the government officials in attendance to commit themselves to bringing gender equity and justice to the people. MATCH Programme Officer Maria Eugenia Otárola has helped La Voz de la Mujer gain access to resources from a Canadian volunteer organization, Child Play International, so as to have high-quality educational toys and after-school programmes for the children living in the shelter and in the neighbourhood.

Minga- Perú is working hard to empower women in the Peruvian Amazon. While monitoring, the Programme Officer had an opportunity to visit a large

house donated to Minga to use as its main office in Iquitos. Many organizations applied to get this wonderful gift. The fact that Minga was chosen speaks highly of the organization.

Lastly, the Centre for Peruvian Women Flora Tristán has been working on a campaign for rural women to obtain their national identity documents. Chacarera magazine articulates the issue, promotes the campaign and provides a forum for rural women to communicate and debate their issues.

Regional Partners' Profiles 2005 - 2006

AFRICA

Ghana

The Centre for Sustainable Development Initiatives (CENSUDI)

Censudi believes that the social, economic and political equality of women is a major prerequisite to the development of a healthy and diversified civil society, and to attaining the wider goal of good governance and sustainable development. CENSUDI therefore aims to provide women with the opportunity to acquire the knowledge, skills and confidence necessary to play a full part in the development process and take charge of their lives.

Ghana

Rescue Foundation Ghana

The project: "Emancipating the Women in Gyaahadze through sensitization and capacity building for Sustainable Development" will train the women in Gyaahadze on gender and development issues in order to help them better address these in their families, in their community, and to help them work towards economic emancipation.

Mali

Association Recherche Action Femme et Développement (ARAFD)

ARAFD works to curb the exploitation and trafficking of girls and young women in the region of Mopti. The activity is carried out by raising awareness among decision makers, school authorities and the community at large, on issues of youth traffic and exploitation. The project will also work with girls and young women to facilitate their future integration into formal education.



Pan-African – Burundi, Rwanda

Society for Women and AIDS in Africa (SWAA)

SWAA is a pan-African organization active in 40 African countries working with grassroots women to provide services in HIV/AIDS prevention, education, voluntary counselling and testing (VCT). SWAA informs mothers about preventing HIV/AIDS transmission to children, provides psychological, medical and financial support and food security to people living with HIV/AIDS, as well as to care-givers, orphans and others who are vulnerable. The project supported by MATCH aims to reduce sexual violence and HIV/AIDS among women and girls living through conflict or in displaced communities.

Senegal

Centre Africain pour le leadership feminine (CALDU)

This group works to develop a critical mass of women leaders in Senegal. The project aims to reinforce the leadership capacity of women in different organizations in Senegal and to bring a gender approach to organizations at a time when their participation in society and the economy is so critical.

Tanzania

Tanzania Women and Children Welfare Centre (TWCWC)

The TWCWC will develop programs aimed at raising awareness of women and children through education, seminars, workshops and will-writing campaigns. Community members will be informed of human rights and women rights through the distribution of written materials. Women will receive assistance with legal matters and addressing social problems through counselling sessions and welfare and legal services whenever possible.

Togo

Conseil Consultatif des Femmes du Togo (CcoFT)

CCoFT is a coalition of women's and human rights' groups working to build the capacity of its membership on local governance and on the decentralization process in Togo.

ASIA

India

Ekta Mahila Manche (EMM)

EMM has been working for the last three years in mobilizing women into Ekta Parishad's lands movement via the "Women's Land Rights Campaign". Traditionally, women do not own land; therefore EMM's current project addresses gender inequality as well as

economic disparity as in cases of unequal land distribution. The specific issues EMM has been working on are: widow's land rights, rights of agricultural labourers for land acquisition, the implementation of joint land titles, and collective titles for women involved in developing self-help groups.

Nepal

Nari Chetana Kendra Nepal - Women Awareness Centre Nepal (WACN)

WACN works towards the full participation of women in all spheres of development. WACN believes that unless the poverty of women is addressed, many socio-economic problems will remain. Women are encouraged to participate in cooperatives to carry out micro enterprises. WACN facilitates programmes that actively challenge women's subordination in decision-making and economic activities.

Women's Rights Forum Nepal (WRFN)

WRFN is a non-governmental organization located in the district of Kavre. It was established in 1998 for the purpose of reforming the social and economic situation of women living in poverty. WRFN's Women's Programme has been working in two municipalities of the Kavre district. There are two women's cooperatives and informal groups meet to promote women's rights. The programme's primary objectives are to strengthen rural women's cooperatives and build the capacity of rural women's organizations.

Sri Lanka

Lawyers for Human Rights and Development (LHRD)

This organization was started in 1986 by a group of lawyers helping women living in poverty. LHRD operates a Women's Desk to assist women victims of violence, discrimination, sexual abuse and other rights violations. The Women's Desk conducts legal awareness programmes for women, trains activists as paralegals and provides legal aid services to women. It also works with women migrant workers on issues related to workers in free trade zones and the garment industry.

Women's Education Research Centre (WERC)

This women's organization has been working against a background of violence that underlines almost all actions in every sphere of life, whether social, political or economic. Within this context, WERC is carrying out a project to "enhance and develop women's capacities" by reducing structural gender inequalities at the social, political, cultural and legal levels.

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**Sri Lanka***Women in Need (WIN)*

WIN provides services to women and children who are victims/survivors of violence and abuse through a network of crisis centres. It seeks to provide a safe environment for women and children. Until recently, this organization was covering Colombo and Anuradhapura. It has now opened three more crisis centres in Matara, Badulla and Kandy. WIN services the rest of the country by providing counselling through written correspondence and its 24-hour hot line.

CARIBBEAN**Jamaica***S-Corner Clinic and Community Development Organization*

S-Corner Clinic is situated in Bennettland, a densely populated inner city neighbourhood with a population of 5,500. Issues affecting the residents of this poor community include high levels of unemployment, illiteracy, teenage and single parenting, violence and poverty. Women, who are particularly vulnerable due to socio-economic circumstances, are able to receive basic medical care and health information from the staff and outreach workers on issues such as family planning, maternal health, nutrition, health and lifestyle and prevention of STDs/HIV/AIDS. In addition, S-Corner Clinic has been sought by residents to mediate violence issues in the community.

St. Thomas Women's Agricultural Initiative

The parishes of St. Thomas and Hanover in the southeast of Jamaica have high levels of poverty. To help women gain some measure of economic independence, the St. Thomas Women's Agricultural Initiative was created. The project aims to improve the livelihood and quality of life of the women of Bath and its surroundings by improving an income-generating farm and making farming sustainable.

Women's Media Watch

Women's Media Watch works to reduce sexual violence, violence in the media and violence generally in Jamaica. With particular emphasis on violence against women, Women's Media Watch has focused on increasing awareness of the issue among youth and student teachers in schools and communities. Other activities include producing information on gender violence for education and training purposes, operating a resource centre and assisting social research projects.

Trinidad and Tobago*The Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA)*

CAFRA is increasing awareness on HIV/AIDS in various Caribbean islands among young women and men. Working through local CAFRA groups, the project includes components that deal with empowerment, life skills development and community resourcing for HIV/AIDS. Research will examine the key social and gender factors that place young women at a high risk for acquiring the disease in the region.

SOUTH AMERICA**Peru***Centro de la Mujer Peruana Flora Tristán (Peruvian Women's Centre Flora Tristán)*

Flora Tristán's project seeks to continue publishing the magazine "Chacarera" through the Programa de Desarrollo Rural (Rural Development Programme) and the National Network of Rural Women. According to an independent assessment "Chacarera" is a source of information, and a valued space where women can exchange information and ideas and carry on debates.

Centro Desarrollo de la Mujer Negra Peruana (CEDEMUNEP)(Development Center for Black Peruvian Women)

CEDEMUNEP works with Afro Peruvian women on issues of gender equity and racial equality in La Victoria District in Lima. This project aims to involve officials, at all levels of government, to resolve problems of gender and racial discrimination in Peru.

La Voz de la Mujer (Women's Voice)

La Voz de la Mujer offers shelter to women and their children escaping domestic violence. Since most of the women do not have financial resources, La Voz has developed close relationships with members of the legal and medical professions to assist women in taking control over their lives.

LUNDU

LUNDU is an organization of young Afro-Peruvians working with youth in urban and rural communities. LUNDU aims to present a positive image of Afro Peruvian culture to the world by rescuing cultural artifacts such as visual arts, ceramics and textiles, while highlighting the contributions of Peruvians and Peruvian culture to the population at-large.

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Peru

Minga – Perú

Minga – Perú works with Amazonian women living in communities along the Marañon and Tigre rivers through initiatives that are culturally sensitive and ecologically appropriate. Project activities contribute to the sustainability of these marginalized and vulnerable indigenous groups. This project draws from the expertise of local trainers to train women on gender issues and small-scale production.

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New Board Members Profiles

Jane Heron

Jane Heron is currently employed in the Sustainability Department at VanCity Credit Union, where she is responsible for the employee community involvement programs, including a donations matching program. In 2003, Jane received a "Power of Humanity Award", on behalf of VanCity, from the Canadian Red Cross for her work with Family Services of Greater Vancouver. Jane also manages the Shared Interest Program, which is the corporate donations program for the Citizens Bank of Canada; a wholly owned subsidiary of VanCity. As

member of a number of professional groups, including the Community Investment Network, and with a background in marketing, Jane brings experience in brand development, relationship building and fundraising to the MATCH Board. Jane is married and lives in Vancouver. Jane is an avid reader, and is also interested in photography and outdoor activities, including skiing and biking.

Effie Simpson-Ekuban

Effie is a Director at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning in Accra, Ghana. She is currently engaged in restructuring the Ministry, where she has more than 20 years' experience as a development economist. As a Ghanaian civil servant, she has served on a number of national committees and boards and represented her country at several international fora. From 2001 to 2004, she served as Executive Director at the African Development Bank (ADB). As a member of the Board of Directors of ADB, Effie's role was to make decisions on sectoral policies and guidelines for the implementation of projects in the private, social and infrastructure sectors. As Executive Director for Ghana at the ADB, she also represented Gambia, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Sudan. Effie is a member of the Soroptimist International Club of Accra, and is a keen advocate of supporting poor women and children to help them improve their lives.

Fundraising Report

Once again, a simple "thank you" does not convey our gratitude to all of you, our donors, who continue to support the efforts of MATCH in responding to the overwhelming demand for assistance, which was particularly so this past fiscal year.

As the auditor's report reflects, through the generosity of our sustaining donors, individuals and foundations, we raised \$302,294 in addition to the generous support of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). This money was raised predominantly through direct-mail appeals and foundation proposals.

MATCH is greatly missing a dear friend and donor, Marguerite Bergeron-Tremblay, who passed away in August 2004. We are very grateful to her family for requesting that memoriam donations be made to MATCH in lieu of flowers. Over the years Ms. Bergeron-Tremblay was known for giving the "gift" of MATCH – we would receive cheques from her to honour the birthdays of her family and friends, their anniversaries and even their deaths. Including donations made in memoriam, Ms. Bergeron-Tremblay helped to raise over \$20,000 for MATCH.

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As you are aware, this is the first and only *MATCH News* that will be produced in 2005. This year, we have invested resources in revamping the MATCH website (www.matchinternational.org), which we are happy to announce is up and running! Our new website will keep you informed of current happenings at MATCH, as well as give you the option of donating on-line. Those wishing to donate by mail will still have the opportunity to do so, as we will continue with our four direct-mail campaigns (in March, May, September and November).

Like most charities, MATCH is finding it challenging to raise money in this tight economy. We are striving to increase Canadian understanding of the role of women's participation in international development and the commonalities that exist among women regardless of their geographical location. To this end, we need your help to succeed. We ask that you tell your friends and family about MATCH. Have them read our newsletter, give them the website address or arrange to have someone from MATCH speak at your church, group or committee meetings. This raised awareness will generate increased revenues and matching funds from CIDA to support the increasing demand for help from our partners.

Sometimes it is easy to get discouraged by progress that seems to be slower than we would like, but we have to step back and reflect on the great strides that our partners have made – not only over the last year but over the last 29 years. Your financial support, matched by CIDA's grants, has given hope and a new way of living for millions of women in many of the poorest countries in the world, and for that we thank you. We ask that you continue to believe in our work and our vision of a changed world as we journey towards our 30th year of "making a difference."

Terri M. Jones
Marketing and Development Officer

Auditors' Report

To the Members of MATCH International Centre - Centre International MATCH:

We have audited the statement of financial position of MATCH International Centre - Centre International MATCH as at March 31, 2005 and the statement of changes in net assets and the statement of revenues and expenses for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

Except as explained in the following paragraph, we conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In common with many not-for-profit organizations, MATCH derives revenue from donations which are not susceptible to complete audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of this revenue was limited to amounts recorded in the books of MATCH and we are not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to revenues, excess of revenues over expenses, assets and net assets.

In our opinion, except for the effect of adjustments, if any, which might have been required had we been able to satisfy ourselves concerning the completeness of donations, as explained in the preceding paragraph, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of MATCH as at March 31, 2005 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. As required by the Canada Corporations Act, we report that, in our opinion, these principles have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

van Berkom and Ritz
Chartered Accountants
Ottawa, Ontario

May 25, 2005



Financial Statements

Statement of Revenues and Expenses
MATCH International Centre

	Year Ended March 31	
	2005	2004
Revenues		
CIDA program contributions	\$ 228,642	\$ 360,766
Fundraising	302,294	369,873
Other	782	2,403
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>531,718</u>	<u>733,042</u>
Expenses		
Direct programs		
International	329,336	489,758
Canadian -publications	18,821	18,364
-public engagements	2,687	4,516
	<u>350,844</u>	<u>512,638</u>
Indirect programs		
Support staff costs	21,677	18,270
Operational	14,925	31,968
	<u>36,602</u>	<u>50,238</u>
Total direct and indirect programs	<u>387,446</u>	<u>562,876</u>
Core operational	140,941	102,640
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>528,387</u>	<u>665,516</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	<u>\$ 3,331</u>	<u>\$ 67,526</u>

Statement of Financial Position
MATCH International Centre

	March 31	
	2005	2004
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 156,324	\$ 121,352
Contributions receivable	—	29,854
Other receivables	23,947	47,997
Prepaid expenses	10,165	5,010
	<u>190,436</u>	<u>204,213</u>
CAPITAL ASSETS	<u>3,038</u>	<u>472</u>
	<u>\$ 193,474</u>	<u>\$ 204,685</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities		
- programs and projects	\$ 29,670	\$ 134,600
- other	43,013	29,351
Deferred revenue		
- programs and projects	94,087	5,472
- donations	5,206	17,095
	<u>171,976</u>	<u>186,518</u>
NET ASSETS		
Invested in capital assets	3,038	472
Unrestricted	18,460	17,695
	<u>21,498</u>	<u>18,167</u>
	<u>\$ 193,474</u>	<u>\$ 204,685</u>

**MATCH International – Manitoba**

Cordially invites you to join in the 25th Anniversary of women promoting equality, development, justice and peace

6:30 p.m., Friday, November 4, and 9:00 a.m., Saturday, November 5, 2005

Global Justice Film Festival, Riddell Hall, University of Winnipeg
MATCH display Full registration: \$20.00

Monday, January 30, 2006

FAFIA Panel: Beijing +10 and Beyond
7:00 p.m., Wolseley Family Place, 691 Wolseley Ave.

Sunday, February 12, 2006

International Development Week Fundraising Dinner

Still Making Poverty History:

- Janice Hamilton, Manitoba Council for International Cooperation
- Sid Frankel, Social Planning Council of Winnipeg
- Stu Clark, Canadian Foodgrains Bank

1:00, Ivory Restaurant, 200 Main St
Tickets \$45.00 (tax receipt for \$20.00)

Monday, March 27, 2006

Voices for Peace, including 3 others to be confirmed
Project Peacemakers: Bev Ridd
Canadian Voice of Women for Peace: Stella LeJohn

Canadian Council for Refugees: Marceline Ndayumvira
7:00 p.m., Wolseley Family Place, 691 Wolseley Ave.

Monday, April 24, 2006

Panel: Youth Connections
Co-facilitators: Louisa Loeb and Sister Lesley Sacouman
1:00, Rossbrook House, 658 Ross Ave.

Monday, May 29, 2006

MATCH Manitoba Annual General Meeting
MATCH video: A MATCH for Life
7:00 p.m., Wolseley Family Place, 691 Wolseley Ave.

Business Meetings:

Mondays: October 3/05, Jan.9/06, May 8/06, 12:00 noon, Viscount Gort
Tuesday, December 6, 2005, 9:00 a.m., cafeteria at Legislative Building

MATCH International gratefully accepts donations for work with partners in the south:
MATCH INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, 201 - 15 Grenfell Crescent, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K2G 0G3
Tax receipts are issued for donations \$10.00 and over.

For information, contact Chairperson of MATCH International - Manitoba: Stella LeJohn 489-3531

Annual MATCH Meetings

MATCH supporters gathered at the Ottawa City Hall on September 15, 2005, for the MATCH annual meeting and discussion with **Urvashi Butalia** and **Sarah Torres**, who were guest speakers.

The meeting was attended by all the members of the Board of Directors, except for co-founder **Suzanne Johnson** who was unable to attend. **Norma Walmsley**, Founding President of MATCH and co-founder was present along with **Joan Garnett**, who is credited with giving MATCH its original name. **Marnie Girvan**, a former MATCH Executive Director, attended since she is working with MATCH on its Tsunami reconstruction project, supported by VanCity, in Sri Lanka. The annual meeting re-appointed Brenda van Berkom as the auditor and confirmed the following women as directors: **Urvashi Butalia, Isabel Duque, Suzanne Johnson-Harvor (co-founder), Jane Heron, Stella LeJohn, Lene Madsen, Nkiru**

Nzegwu, Ceta Ramkhalawansingh, Effie Simpson-Ekuban, Yvonne Sinkevich and Judith Wedderburn.

Following the annual meeting of supporters, the Board of Directors appointed the following as officers of MATCH:

Yvonne Sinkevich - President
Lene Madsen - Vice President
Isabel Duque - Vice President
Ceta Ramkhalawansingh - Treasurer and Past President
Guenet Guebre-Selassie - Secretary to the Board

The Board also appointed the following as Committee Chairs:

Judith Wedderburn to Personnel, **Jane Heron** to Fund-raising, **Lene Madsen** to By-laws, **Stella LeJohn** to Program, **Ceta Ramkhalawansingh** to Finance.

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The Board thanked outgoing MATCH President, **Ceta Ramkhalawansingh** who served for the past two and a half years – taking over during a critical period of change at MATCH with the passing of Board members **Rosemary Brown** and **Salma Sobhan** and the departure of executive director, **Madonna Larbi**.

Speaking about MATCH

- Board members Urvashi Butalia, Isabel Duque and Effie Simpson-Ekuban gave talks at "friend-raising" meetings in Winnipeg and Toronto.
- MATCH Winnipeg is producing a film about Norma Walmsley, MATCH Founding President and Co-founder. MATCH is accepting donations for this project.
- Check the MATCH Website www.matchinternational.org for up-coming events in Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver.

Annual Meeting Speakers

Sarah Torres

Sarah Torres who works with a sister organization in the north, the Canadian Research Institute on the Advancement of Women (CRIAW) gave her talk on the theme of "Economic and Social Justice: Linking Women's Poverty and Exclusion in Canada and Abroad". Among the themes addressed by Ms. Torres were the role of the state in perpetuating the root causes of poverty, individual and state responsibility to be pro-active in making social change, the parallels between the experiences and struggles of women in Canada and the economic south to eliminate poverty. She also spoke of the role of CRIAW as a research institute which links research to action to social change. Ms. Torres urged women to participate in activities, such as: the October 17th noon vigil organized by the World March of Women to urge governments to eliminate poverty and violence against women and support the Blueprint for Society featured in the Women's Global Charter for Humanity; and the Make Poverty History campaign, showing their support by wearing symbols such as the "white band". She stressed the importance of getting the Canadian government to commit 0.7% towards official development assistance. But, she stressed the importance of making personal donations such as "matching" the amount spent on pet food, makeup, cigarettes, chocolate bars, movies or beer to our donations to NGOs working on improving the lives of millions of women and children in the South."

Urvashi Butalia

Urvashi Butalia is the MATCH Board Member for the Asia Region. In September 2005 she gave three talks in Canada - at the MATCH AGM in Ottawa, to students at the University of Toronto and to donors at a session hosted by the Royal Bank of Canada.

Speaking at the AGM on the theme of "Gender, Conflict and Development: Questions from South Asia", **Urvashi Butalia** drew upon her work on issues of identity, of memory and war or political violence, on women's voices, and on how countries deal with, or indeed don't deal with, violent pasts. She also spoke about women caught in different kinds of conflict situations, and on the devastation caused by disasters like the tsunami in Asia. She noted that donor communities and countries must be sensitive to these realities and to keep in mind that their good intentions could actually end up doing something quite opposite on the ground, and that aid has to be directed and managed locally. That of course has distinguished MATCH from other NGOs by the way in which MATCH works with its partners.

In her speech at the University of Toronto, Ms. Butalia focused on the writing of history: who is the legitimate writer of histories, what are "legitimate" histories, how are marginalized communities, and particularly women, silenced in history, what does the recovery of their silences and the voices behind them mean, what, in effect, does it mean to listen to the roar that lies at the other side of silence, what are the tools that we have at hand to explore these histories and where is the researcher's responsibility in this? These issues were explored by looking at the multiple narratives of the partition of India, an event that caused the largest human migration known to history (of some 12 to 14 million people) resulted in the deaths of a million, the rape of 100,000 women - an atrocity that is marginalized in history. Regarding partition, the talk focused on women's narratives and voices, and explored issues of violence, sexuality, honour, martyrdom, nation and community.

In speaking to MATCH donors at the session hosted by the Royal Bank of Canada, Ms. Butalia looked at the lessons Canada has to offer, and MATCH has to offer, in how to set up real and equitable partnerships across the world, in how to understand difference, and the importance of living with it. She looked at what had happened to women as a result of the tsunami, and the way in which MATCH was planning to work there, the sorts of issues that were necessary to keep in mind and the long term ways in which these could be addressed. She also discussed corporate responsibility and commitment, and focused on the need for people from different parts of the world to learn about each other, and learn to respect and work with each other.



Getting to Know Our Donors



Micheline Beaudry can correct a lot of misinformation in two minutes. Breastfeeding is not for all mothers with newborns? Nonsense. "It is the best form of nutrition for babies everywhere, and good for mothers, too," says the Université Laval nutrition professor and breastfeeding advocate. "Yet health professionals still contribute too often, though unconsciously, to many obstacles to breastfeeding, e.g. telling mothers that their milk doesn't have enough nutrients. It is way more nutrient-rich than cow's milk or any breast milk substitute!"

How about the issue of hospitals distributing free samples of breast milk substitutes to mothers in developing countries – that doesn't happen anymore, does it? "It still happens in too many countries – almost everywhere," she says. "You just don't hear about it."

Dr. Beaudry wants health professionals to listen: "Stop pressuring pregnant women - just give them adequate support so they can do what is best for mother and baby. For both of them, breastfeeding is the number one health promotion and disease prevention intervention that will benefit them throughout their lives. It could save 1.3 million babies a year in developing countries."

"With women producing more than 70% of the developing world's food, it is crucial that they get help to live independent lives. MATCH helps them do that. MATCH doesn't fund the development industry; rather it funds the development of people."

In her groundbreaking study in New Brunswick in the early 1980s, Micheline Beaudry and colleagues found that babies who had been breastfed for at least some of the first six months of their lives had less respiratory infections. This was one of the first population-based studies on the topic in industrialized countries. Twenty-five years later, with postings at UNICEF and the WHO behind her, Dr. Beaudry has written another book on breastfeeding aimed at health professionals. Despite her education in English at Cornell University (Master's and Ph.D), the book is in French given the dearth of French texts on breastfeeding.

It was during her time at Cornell that Dr. Beaudry began exploring international development issues: "I realized that many of the problems in the South were caused by the way we live in the North. I wanted to do something about it."

Dr. Beaudry worked on development projects in Nicaragua and elsewhere. She saw that MATCH's philosophy fit with her own: "With women producing more than 70% of the developing world's food, it is crucial that they get help to live independent lives. MATCH helps them do that. MATCH doesn't fund the development industry; rather it funds the development of people."

As Micheline Beaudry reflects on her career and being on the verge of retirement, she says she feels rewarded by seeing students go on to accomplish great things. She also takes joy in spending time with her

son and his family (whose children were breastfed!), cycling and reading.

Never lacking for passion, Dr. Beaudry doubts she will ever want for work - and how could she when: "the world has never

had so much scientific knowledge on nutrition and its effects, yet such horrible food choices are causing cardiovascular disease to be the top killer in Canada! We need nutrition-based solutions to the diabetes epidemic".

The world needs more Micheline Beaudrys. MATCH International Centre thanks Dr. Beaudry for her generous support and for letting us shed some light on her activism, so important to MATCH's work.



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued support of MATCH International Centre and for your valued commitment to supporting the work we do with women in the South.

It's with pleasure that I'm writing to you today to share news of our recent, successful Annual General Meeting, and to inform you of the election of a dynamic new slate of officers for MATCH.

Yvonne Sinkevich, our representative from Alberta, and former Women's President of the National Farmers Association is our new Board President. Ms. Sinkevich is a semi-retired farmer, activist, and business entrepreneur, who for over 30 years has represented the rights of female farmers within the National Farmers Union at the local, regional and national levels, lobbying governments both provincial and federal. We are delighted that Ms. Sinkevich will direct the affairs of MATCH in the next few years.

Lene Madsen, family lawyer with Epstein Cole LLP in Toronto and former Head of the Human Rights Coordination Centre in the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia Herzegovina, brings her legal skills and a longstanding commitment to human rights to the Board as the new Vice President.

Isabel Duque, social worker, documentalist, MATCH representative for Latin America, and Coordinator for the Latin American and Caribbean Network against Violence against Women continues as the Vice President from the South.

Meanwhile, **Ceta Ramkhalawansingh**, the outgoing MATCH president, moves over to the post of Treasurer.

We would also like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the other members of our Board, consisting of four international representatives and two national, Canadian members. They are as follows:

- **Judith Wedderburn**, MATCH representative for the Caribbean,
- **Effie Simpson Ekuban**, representative for Africa,
- **Urvashi Butalia**, MATCH representative for Asia,
- **Nkiru Nzegwu**, MATCH representative for the United States,
- **Stella LeJohn**, MATCH representative for Winnipeg,
- **Jane Heron**, MATCH representative for British Columbia.

Following the AGM and Board meetings, MATCH Directors from Asia, Latin America and Africa fulfilled a number of public education engagements in Toronto and Winnipeg, including a dinner hosted by Charles Coffey, Executive Vice President, RBC Financial group.

We are also very pleased to announce a new project partnership with BC-based credit union Vancity and its employees. The project, with a budget of \$236,600 and an expected completion date in 2007, will focus on Tsunami reconstruction work with our partners in Sri Lanka.

Last but not least, the MATCH Board of Directors recently endorsed the appointment of **Carol Faulkner**, a management consultant, former Executive Director of SOS Children's Village, and a long time MATCH supporter to direct the organization's affairs and to work with the staff while we search for a new Executive Director. Ms. Faulkner has vast experience as an NGO consultant and has worked extensively with many NGOs in the Ottawa area, she is also appreciative of the MATCH development vision of working as equal partners with women of the South. We are delighted to welcome her on board, and will keep you appraised as we move forward into this exciting new year at MATCH.

Once again, thank you for your continued support.

Dr. Guenet Guebre-Selassie
A/Executive Director

Yes! I Support Women's Efforts
To end violence, poverty, inequality, and injustice globally!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

My donation is enclosed...

\$ 25 \$ 35 \$ 50
 \$ 75 \$100 \$200
 Other \$ _____

Bill my:

Account # _____

Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____

Become a Sustaining Donor!
MATCH can count on my ongoing support. I authorize MATCH to draw the following amount from the specified chequing account on the first day of each month. If you prefer your monthly donation be processed on your credit card, please check off the amount and fill in your card information above:

\$ 10 \$ 15 \$ 25
 \$ 50 \$ 75 \$200
 Other \$ _____

Signature _____
(Please enclose an unsigned cheque marked VOID)

GUARANTEE: You may change or cancel your participation in the Sustaining Donor Plan at any time by notifying MATCH International Centre.

MATCH International Centre
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