

Manitobans making a difference

Gimli museum exhibits foreign outreach

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Celebrating the 35th anniversary of the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation's (MCIC) work providing assistance to Third World countries around the world, the Manitoba based non-governmental organization is touring the province with an exhibit highlighting the success of their efforts.

The exhibit, "Global Citizens: Manitobans Working Together for a Better World", is now on display at the Gimli New Iceland Heritage Museum. The exhibit runs until July 14.

The MCIC is a coalition of 40 organizations involved in international development. MCIC has responsibility for distributing Government of Manitoba funds designated for such things as international development, emergency relief and rehabilitation,

Tammy Axelsson, executive director of the museum, says MCIC's exhibit and the recent designation of Gimli as a Fair Trade Town are a perfect mix for the museum.

"It shows that a small rural community like ours can have a positive effect on the lives of others less fortunate around the world," she said.

MCIC works in partnership with TransFair Canada in its mission to promote fair trade between developing countries and the industrialized west.

The Manitoba government through the Manitoba Government Matching Grant Program has been providing funding for MCIC projects since 1974 and this year grants will exceed over \$900,000. Projects such as solar power in remote regions, diversification of food production, childhood education and generally assisting in building self-reliance in the Third World.

In conjunction with MCIC's exhibit, the Gimli museum has partnered with the Manitoba Museum to highlight the role that child labour has played in our own history as well as the role that child labour plays in developing countries around the world today. The exploitation associated with child labour is one of the focusses of the Fair Trade movement.

Janice Hamilton, executive director of MCIC, says much has been accomplished in the last few decades yet with millions of people dying of hunger each year there is still lots of work to be done.

Hamilton says positive change happens when we take responsibility and become active citizens in our world. "Today, our individual actions directly affect the world more than they ever have before, making the role of global citizen extremely important."

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