



engineers without borders
ingénieurs sans frontières
Canada



New Developments

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Building leadership in international development

At Engineers Without Borders (EWB), we know that influencing Canada, Canadians and companies will take strong leadership of knowledgeable and effective Canadians. EWB invests in young, exceptional leaders—working with them to develop and hone their leadership capabilities—to drive change and promote human development at home and abroad. By engaging Canadian youth in international development discourse, we believe in a more equitable future.

Recognized leaders

Earlier this spring, Engineers Without Borders received a nod from the **Public Policy Forum**, a Canadian think tank that brings together leaders from both the public and private sectors. The Forum presented EWB with the prestigious **Young Leaders Award**, celebrating our influence on Canadian public policy.

The Forum created the Young Leaders Award to recognize young Canadians who exemplify **leadership in public policy**, a description which fits the bill for the thousands of active EWB members across Canada.

EWB's influence in the shaping of Canadian public policy stems from the work and passion of our **33 chapters** across the country who are engaging university and high school students, the engineering profession, and the Canadian general public in civic discourse. The award signals that the voices of those engaged through EWB—who are urging the government to adopt pro-development policies—are being heard by the decision-makers in government.

Parker Mitchell and George Roter, founders and co-CEOs of EWB, accepted the award on behalf of the organization in Toronto last month before a crowd of over 1,000 leaders from the private and public sectors. For Parker, **“the award is a tribute to all EWB members** who have contributed over the years. Your hard work and dedication engages tens of thousands of Canadians each year who are bringing international development into policy debate.”

During their speech at the event, the pair talked about the desire among young Canadians, a generation frequently criticized as ‘apathetic’, to make a meaningful contribution that extends beyond our borders. We have seen this in EWB, an organization that has been built by young Canadian leaders who are dedicated to being a part of an organization whose mission they believe in.



EWB co-CEOs and founders, Parker Mitchell (left) and George Roter (right) accepted the Young Leaders award last month on-behalf of EWB at the Public Policy Forum Testimonial Dinner.

“We created Engineers Without Borders as a catalyst for change. **It is exciting to see that EWB members across Canada are respected leaders in their universities, workplaces and communities in engaging Canadians in public policy debates surrounding international development,**” said Parker. This nod from the Public Policy Forum affirms that EWB members are influencing policy in a way that will leave a lasting imprint on international development.

As a supporter of EWB, we hope that you will proudly share in this success. **Thank you** for your contribution to helping EWB become a leader both at home and abroad.

To read EWB's co-CEOs' speech at the Forum's Testimonial Dinner, visit ewb.ca.

Young leaders: Contributing at home and abroad

Last month, **42 young leaders** from across Canada started off their school break with an intensive week-long training session in international development, then headed to sub-Saharan Africa where they are in the midst of a 4 month volunteer placement. This group of inspiring and dedicated youth are taking part in Engineers Without Borders' **Junior Fellowship in International Development Program**, an 18 month program that has them contributing to human development while in Canada and overseas.

Overseas—in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Malawi and Zambia—the Fellows work in partnership with local organisations engaged in poverty alleviation activities. Fellows will contribute to these organisations' capacity, enhancing and expanding their development efforts.

However, the four month placement is not only about creating opportunities for the Fellows to contribute to human development and gain on-the-ground experience; it also (perhaps less obviously) enables Fellows to **hone and enhance their leadership skills** to become more effective champions of development when they return to Canada.

After four months abroad, these young leaders return to their respective universities to be both leaders and champions of international development. Ready to engage Canadians, they return with new leadership skills that emerge from facing new challenges, cultures and expectations while overseas, pushing their leadership knowledge and skills to extremes.

Flexibility, empathy, trust and communication skills are refined as volunteers work with their overseas partners to cultivate a strong relationship where meaningful dialogue can take place. For Courtney Macaulay, a Junior Fellow in 2006, those skills acquired overseas **"allowed me to be a much more effective leader when I returned to Canada"**.

For Courtney, now the co-President of the Carleton EWB Chapter, there are different communication barriers to reaching her peers than she faced in Zambia, yet she is able to use the same skills to reach a different group. Instead of overcoming cultural barriers, she now challenges the boundaries of knowledge as she engages people who have different knowledge about international development and Africa.

Most importantly though, it has given her critical experience about which to talk with others about. **"When you believe in what you are doing, others will too."**

To learn more about EWB's Junior Fellows and their time abroad, visit ewb.ca throughout the summer to read their updates from the field.



Courtney Macaulay, seen here in Zambia, is now employing the leadership skills gained while overseas as co-President of EWB's Carleton Chapter.

In other news:

- On May 17th, Aeroplan, along with its members and partners celebrated the first anniversary of the Beyond Miles Program by contributing **4.1 million Aeroplan Miles** to EWB - enough miles for 28 returned flights to Zambia!
- As the school year wraps up, EWB chapters end the most successful year of high school outreach to date. **25,000 high school students** across Canada took part in our interactive workshops this year.
- **Nine long-term EWB overseas volunteers** commence training next month and will head overseas in August. They will be working in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Malawi and Zambia.
- **26 Presidents** of EWB's student chapters took part in a four day leadership conference in Toronto last month to prepare for the year ahead.
- EWB members have sent aerial photographs of hundreds of Canadians forming giant '0.7%' signs to Prime Minister Harper to urge him and other G8 leaders to commit 0.7% of GNI to foreign aid while at the G8 summit in June.