

Youth Challenge participants needed by May

Three months in remote areas of Costa Rica or Guyana may be just what you need if you are looking to build job skills and help with global development, while also having the adventure

of a lifetime. Youth Challenge International invites youth aged 18-25 to apply for volunteer projects next winter in Costa Rica and Guyana, South America.

Hard work, good fun, great experience! Youth Challenge promotes youth development through exciting community, health and conservation projects. Dynamic

young people from across Canada and around the world will work on a variety of projects under the guidance of experienced youth leaders and project managers. "Participating on a YCI project provides young Canadians with the chance to earn valuable experience, to gain new skills, to learn about a different culture, and to work with other young people from around the world",

says Michael Buda, the Recruitment Director at YCI. The specially extended deadline for applications from Ontario is now May 15, 1998. Only 45 positions are available to applications from Ontario at this time for this exciting opportunity. To receive an application and for more information about YCI, call us at (416) 504-3370 ext. 300, or e-mail us at info@ycli.org.

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Tuberculosis remains a global health concern

World Tuberculosis Day was recently held last month to remind us that tuberculosis remains a serious global health issue. "Tuberculosis kills more youth and adults every year than any other infectious disease. The World Health Organization estimates that unless treatments improve, 70 million people will die from the disease before 2020." (Time, March 2, 1998) Treatment is one issue that Dr. Karim Kurji is concerned about. Kurji feels that present screening methods are inadequate, leaving the majority of TB cases undetected. Kurji recently attended a conference on TB that provided some interesting information about the disease. TB is being spread mainly by overseas immigrants, refugees, Canadians who travel abroad and others that have been in situations where TB is more common. Part of the difficulty in treating the disease is that immigrants are not medically insured for three months after coming to Canada, leaving more possibilities for TB to be left untreated. There are approximately 220,000 immigrants coming into Canada each year, as well as 264,000 individuals being issued student visas to enter the country. Many local doctors, including Kurji, believe that people coming from high-risk countries should be given skin tests, which would screen the disease more effectively. The dilemma, according to citizenship, is that it simply can't be done. Another problem is that immigration is a federal issue, but screening is a provincial issue. Generally, the illness is discovered via routine physical check-ups. Symptoms may include night sweats, prolonged cough, fatigue, anorexia, weight loss, or fever. The symptoms are not relieved by a single course of antibiotics, but require several antibiotics for 9 to 12 months. About one third of the world's population is infected with tuberculosis. For every 10 people infected, one will develop the full-fledged disease. The rate for



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