

# HOW CANADIANS ARE HELPING HAITI

## Introduction



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### Focus

This CBC News in Review story focuses on the ongoing Canadian effort to provide aid to earthquake-ravaged Haiti, a country that is still trying to recover and rebuild months after the disaster.

In the aftermath of the earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12, 2010, Canadians opened their hearts and wallets in a generous outpouring of support. Moved by graphic images of suffering, individuals, families, church groups, and other organizations contributed over \$200-million in humanitarian aid. This figure was unprecedented for Western countries, leading former U.S. president Bill Clinton, now a special United Nations envoy to Haiti, to remark that Canada was “at the top of the league” in the per capita amount of its donations to this devastated country.

For its part, the government of Canada acted quickly to dispatch military units to Haiti to aid in the relief effort. Both Prime Minister Harper and Governor General Michaëlle Jean—who was born in Haiti—made personal visits in the weeks following the quake. Ottawa also pledged to provide matching funds to equal the total amount of private donations Canadians contributed. At the end of March, at a special UN conference in New York to discuss a long-term project to help rebuild the shattered country, Minister of International Cooperation Bev Oda announced that Canada was signing on to an ambitious, multi-billion-dollar plan. This plan involves rebuilding the country from the ground up.

While the sincerity of Canada’s commitment was not questioned, workers from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) active on the ground began to criticize the slow pace at which money

was being released for much-needed relief projects. For example, one absolute necessity for the over one million people rendered homeless by the quake was shelter, especially as the spring rainy season was approaching. Another requirement was portable water purifiers that would enable survivors to obtain fresh, safe drinking water. But these and other projects that NGO volunteers were eager to initiate were being stalled because none of the \$200-million in matching government funds had been released to them months after the quake.

To make matters even worse, aid workers were also coping with other serious problems on the ground that were interfering with their efforts to assist quake survivors. Among these were heavy-handed Haitian government bureaucracy that was delaying the distribution of supplies, poor transportation and communication infrastructure, and most ominously, the menacing presence of armed gangs that were threatening relief workers in the sprawling, dangerous slums of Port-au-Prince, the country’s capital. Over three months after the earthquake, the country was slowly recovering, and some Haitians were benefiting from the generosity of individuals and groups from Canada. But many more were still waiting for the aid that the Canadian government and the international community had promised, and for them the suffering and deprivation lingered on.

### To Consider

1. Why do you think Canadians were so generous in the level of their contributions to earthquake relief in Haiti?
2. What efforts did the Canadian government make to assist Haiti after the quake?
3. Why do you think the Canadian government has not released the matching funds they promised?

# HOW CANADIANS ARE HELPING HAITI

## Video Review

### Did you know . . .

Canada's annual foreign-aid budget is approximately \$5-billion.

### Pre-viewing Activity

Before you watch the video, discuss the following questions with a partner or in a small group and record your responses.

1. What was your reaction to news of the earthquake that struck Haiti in January 2010?

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2. Did you or anyone you know make a contribution to earthquake relief in Haiti? If so, what form did this contribution take?

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3. Give examples of some aid organizations with which you are familiar that are involved in relief efforts in Haiti.

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4. What do you know about the Canadian government's involvement in providing assistance to Haiti after the quake?

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5. What do you know about conditions in Haiti following the earthquake?

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### Viewing Questions

As you watch the video, respond to the questions in the spaces provided.

1. a) Approximately how many people were killed in the earthquake in Haiti?

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b) How many were injured? \_\_\_\_\_

c) How many were left homeless? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How did individual Canadians, including young people, contribute to earthquake relief in Haiti?

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3. What steps did the Canadian government take to provide assistance to Haiti after the quake?

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4. What problems are aid workers like John McEwan and Khurran Nazeer encountering in their efforts to provide tents and water purifiers?

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5. a) On what relief projects was the Canadian doctor Raul Singh of Global Medic working in Haiti?

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b) Why is his organization ending its work there?

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6. How does Gilles Rivard, Canada's ambassador to Haiti, account for the fact that none of the \$200-million in matching Canadian government funds has been released yet?

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7. What problems did relief workers encounter when trying to deliver needed tents and other supplies to quake survivors in the countryside and in the city of Port-au-Prince?

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8. a) What are Carole Coeur, Martine Flokstra, and Nicole Aube of Médecins Sans Frontières doing to assist quake survivors?

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b) What challenges are they dealing with in these efforts?

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9. Why is the story of Duncan Dee and Air Canada such a positive example of how emergency aid can be delivered quickly to Haiti?
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### **Post-viewing Activity**

After you have watched the video, discuss and respond to the following questions. Your teacher may choose to place you in a small group with other students.

1. How would you evaluate the effectiveness of Canada's response to the earthquake in Haiti months after the disaster occurred?
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2. In your view, what are the most immediate priorities that need to be addressed to help Haiti recover from the quake?
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3. Do you agree with the criticisms that some NGO workers have made regarding the delay in releasing federal funds for earthquake relief? Why or why not?
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4. Read the following quote from Dr. Nicole Aube of Médecins Sans Frontières: "This is a broken city. This is a broken country. They are exhausted emotionally when they think about their future. They feel abandoned by their own. They're really thankful that we, the outside world, are here, and they hear that a lot of NGOs have already started to leave, and they fear that they will remain alone and abandoned."

After watching the video, do you share Aube's assessment of the future facing Haiti's people? Why or why not? Provide specific reasons to support your point of view.

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# HOW CANADIANS ARE HELPING HAITI

## Aid to Haiti

### Definition

Non-governmental organizations, or NGOs, are generally not-for-profit organizations that do not represent government. Most NGOs are social or cultural groups.

### Focus for Reading

As you read the following information ask yourself whether or not you agree with the Canadian government's major aid priorities—which currently target the needs of the world's least-developed nations.

### Background

The massive earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12, 2010, focused Canadian and world attention on the desperate plight of this poor Caribbean country. Even before this catastrophe, Haiti was a major recipient of international humanitarian aid, much of it coming from Canada. A large number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were based in the capital, Port-au-Prince, along with a substantial United Nations presence.

UN forces had been deployed to Haiti in early 2004 following the controversial ouster of the country's president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, to help prevent civil unrest and ensure a peaceful transfer of power. One of the major casualties of the quake was the UN mission's command centre in Port-au-Prince, which was completely destroyed, killing many of its personnel who were trapped inside the building. Ironically, shortly before the quake, former U.S. president Bill Clinton had met with Haitian President René Préval and commended the country on the progress it was making toward political stability and the improvement of its people's standard of living.

Following the quake, the federal government made Haiti an even greater priority for foreign aid. Eighty per cent of the foreign aid given by Canada each year is distributed through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). This agency maintains three main streams of funding: first through multilateral organizations such as the United Nations; then via bilateral

programs that reach a specific country either through its government or a local agency working there; and last, by way of partnerships between CIDA and a Canadian NGO.

Recently the federal government stated that the highest priority areas within its foreign aid strategy are food security, economic development, and help for women and children in developing countries. Food security means the provision of emergency food supplies in areas affected by drought or other natural disasters and long-term agricultural assistance that would enable a country to start producing enough food to meet its own needs. Economic development entails extending micro-loans to developing countries that will help them to start businesses that will create jobs and manufacture products for both the local and export markets. Finally, assistance to women and children became a special concern of Prime Minister Stephen Harper when he called for a major G8 program to specifically address the health conditions of women and their babies in poor countries.

Currently, Canada's foreign aid is primarily targeted to 20 countries world-wide. The federal government has increased the number of recipient countries in the Americas while reducing the number in Africa. Afghanistan is the top recipient of Canadian aid, followed by Haiti. Aid to Haiti is likely to increase both through the government's commitment to match the \$200-million in individual donations contributed following the earthquake and as a result

### **Did you know . . .**

Creole is one of two officials languages in Haiti; the other is French. A large Haitian-Canadian population lives in Montreal.

### **Quote**

"The whole world wants to see Haiti seize this important moment and do what it takes to lift Haiti out of misery. The time for tensions and divisions is over." — Governor General Michaëlle Jean, visiting Haiti in 2006 shortly after becoming Canada's governor general (*The Globe and Mail*, March 8, 2010)

of its participation in a multi-billion-dollar UN project to rebuild Haiti that may take many years to complete.

### **Canadian Aid in Action: Rebuilding Jacmel**

The coastal city of Jacmel—or Jakmel in Creole—is considered to be Haiti's cultural centre. It is also the ancestral home of Michaëlle Jean, Canada's governor general. Jacmel's historic centre is a treasure trove of artistic and cultural traditions that blend colonial French, African, and Caribbean influences dating back over three centuries. The town figured significantly in the Haitian revolution in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century that saw an army of former slaves drive superior French and British forces from the island. Haiti was declared an independent republic in 1804, the first free non-white state to come into being anywhere in the world.

The earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12, 2010, caused widespread destruction and loss of life in Jacmel. The first tremor occurred at 4:30 p.m., and a severe aftershock about an hour later stopped the clock in the cathedral tower permanently at 5:37 p.m. Zenny Edwin, the town's mayor, stated that between 300 and 500 residents lost their lives in the quake, which also injured another 4 000 of the city's 50 000 inhabitants. About 70 per cent of the houses in Jacmel were totally destroyed. Colonial-era buildings in the town's historic centre, whose ornate balconies were supported by stone pillars, were largely spared, as was the covered market that Belgian craftsmen built in 1895. But the poorer neighbourhoods of Jacmel were not so lucky. Most of these structures were built of concrete blocks and either completely collapsed or sustained irreparable damage in the quake, often killing or severely injuring those unlucky enough to have been

inside them when it struck.

Since the earthquake, Jacmel has become the main focus for Canada's aid programs in Haiti. Even before her emotional visit to her home town in early March 2010, Jean drew attention to the plight of Jacmel and the loss of many of her friends and family members in the disaster. But her much-anticipated arrival on March 9 was a momentous occasion for its beleaguered residents. Jean had visited Jacmel once before, in May 2006, shortly after she assumed the position of governor general. At that time, she expressed the hope that her homeland would overcome its serious problems and one day realize the dreams of its heroic founders.

On her second trip, she focused on Haitian women, without whom, she claimed, no project of relief and reconstruction could succeed. She drew attention to the plight of many Haitian women, usually the mainstays of the family unit, who were facing serious threats to their personal safety from marauding gangs. She appealed to all Haitians to unite and overcome their past differences in order to deal with the urgent task of national rebuilding the earthquake had presented to them. And she promised that she would not forget Jacmel and the rest of her homeland when she returned to Canada and would do whatever she could to pressure the federal government and world bodies such as the United Nations to keep Haiti at the top of their humanitarian aid and reconstruction agendas.

Canada has been instrumental in helping Jacmel recover from the devastation of the earthquake and lay the foundations for a precarious, slow recovery. Shortly after the quake struck the town, Canadian troops arrived and have maintained a major presence ever since, helping to restore the functioning of the airport, clearing rubble from the

streets, and repairing water and sewage systems. Local residents are extremely grateful for the assistance Canada has provided and are quick to point out that no official from the Haitian government even visited the town before Jean's arrival.

Haiti's needs are great, and Jacmel, for all its historical and symbolic significance, is just one town among many in this desperately poor country that is seeking assistance from both national and international bodies.

### **Follow-up**

1. Do you agree that Afghanistan and Haiti should be the two main recipients of Canadian foreign aid? Why or why not?
2. Do you think that Governor General Michaëlle Jean's visit to Jacmel will have more than just a symbolic significance for the town's earthquake-ravaged residents? Why or why not?
3. Do you think people are tired of hearing about the devastation in Haiti? Provide reasons for your answer.

# HOW CANADIANS ARE HELPING HAITI

## Raising and Tracking Money

### In This Guide

To learn more about the musician K'naan, turn to the story on pages 46-56 in this resource guide.

### Pre-reading Activity

With a partner or small group, develop a flow chart or a list of points that describes what you think happens to aid money after someone makes a donation. Be very specific in your answer. Compare your answer with one other pair or small group and make any additions or changes that you feel are necessary. As you read the following information, further update your notes.

### Aid Pours In

Like the Asian tsunami of December 2004, the earthquake in Haiti prompted a remarkable outpouring of donations from Canadians. Almost immediately after the first images of the quake's devastation appeared on television and computer screens across the country, people began to contact a number of charitable organizations that raise money to respond to natural disasters around the world. Among the best-known of these are the Canadian Red Cross (CRC), CARE Canada, OXFAM, Save the Children Canada, World Vision, and Médecins Sans Frontières. Many of these groups were already involved in sponsoring aid programs in Haiti even before the quake, but the disaster vastly increased the amount of money that was flowing into their head offices.

Because of greater access to the Internet, a growing number of Canadians now make charitable donations online instead of by mail or telephone. In the days immediately following the Haiti earthquake, the response was so great that some of the Web sites of charitable organizations—Médecins Sans Frontières, for example—crashed because of the high volume of hits. By mid-February 2010, about a month after the quake struck, Canadians had donated a total of \$113-million to various organizations participating in the Haiti relief effort. The federal government pledged to match this amount with an equivalent grant. By late March, total

donations had topped \$220-million.

The Canadian Red Cross alone had raised \$122-million for its Haiti Earthquake Fund by mid-April 2010 and had already spent about one-third of this amount for emergency relief efforts in areas devastated by the quake. According to Conrad Sauvé, CEO of the CRC, one of the organization's top priorities was providing tents for tens of thousands of homeless people in the quake zone. The CRC was also helping to construct more permanent shelters for them.

Individual Canadians were also doing what they could to assist Haiti. Some of the country's top recording artists, including Avril Lavigne, Nelly Furtado, and Drake, collaborated on a remixed version of K'naan's song "Wavin' Flag," donating proceeds from digital sales to Free the Children, War Child Canada, and World Vision to be used for Haiti relief projects for children. A group of people in the Ontario city of Markham organized three fundraising events, including an Asian-inspired dinner, a "taste of Broadway" concert, and a gala dance reception that pledged to raise \$250 000 to help rebuild part of Port-au-Prince. This ambitious project was dubbed the "Markham miracle." Eighty schools in the Hamilton, Ontario, area, along with local police, hospital staff, and others, raised \$218 632 in a one-week fundraising drive called "Project Concern," to help rebuild the St. Joseph's Home for Boys, an orphanage in Haiti that was completely destroyed in the

### **Did you know ...**

One of the reasons that aid is not delivered quickly to those who need it is that all of the disaster relief agencies on site have to fight over the same trucks and vehicles within the disaster area. Transportation infrastructure is one of the key issues in providing disaster relief.

### **Did you know ...**

Haitian banks were shut down for an entire month following the quake. Because of that, it was very difficult for money to be transferred from Canadian banks to partners operating on the ground.

quake. These are just some of the many examples of Canadians who were doing what they could to help Haiti.

### **Where Does the Money Go?**

As Canadians continued to donate vast sums of money for Haitian earthquake relief projects, there were growing concerns that the funds were not actually reaching those in need of assistance. Some of the money is used to cover the administrative costs of charities for items such as advertising, staffing call-centres, and maintaining Web sites. While some organizations, such as Plan International Canada, Adventist Development, and Relief Agency Canada, were committed to using every cent they received in donations to fund their Haiti operations, other larger charities admitted that they retained between eight and 10 per cent of total donations to cover administrative costs.

Once the money arrived in Haiti, there was still no certainty that all or even most of it would be spent on emergency food and water supplies, shelter, or medical equipment and assistance. A great amount would be needed just to provide logistical support to deliver the aid to where it was needed. For example, it costs as much as \$2 000 per day to hire a truck to bring safe drinking water from the Dominican Republic to Haiti, a trip that could take many days through difficult terrain over shattered roads. According to Jane Connolly, director of programs for the International Development and Relief Foundation, “the necessity for the money really is in the transportation because everybody is squabbling over trucks and drivers. That’s just one of the supply chain issues you get with disasters.”

In the aftermath of the quake, some aid agencies began to shift their priorities from emergency assistance to longer-term reconstruction efforts.

CARE Canada, Oxfam, and Save the Children planned to dedicate some of the over \$10-million it raised for multi-year reconstruction projects, including rebuilding homes, schools, and other facilities. But others, including World Vision, continued to make meeting the short-term needs such as shelter and non-food items like hygiene kits a major focus for its spending. Before that, supplies had to be moved directly into Haiti, which took time due to the severe congestion at the country’s only international airport and the almost total destruction of the port facilities in Port-au-Prince.

After the Asian tsunami of December 2004, some Canadian donors were angry to learn that prominent aid groups had not been able to deliver the funds donated to those most in need of help. Instead, they had been used to finance other projects or, in the worst cases, had disappeared into the pockets of corrupt local partners in reconstruction efforts. According to Rosemary McCarney, president and CEO of Plan Canada, “when you give to an organization, you should be able to hold their feet to the fire in terms of accounting for the funds that have been given” (“Haiti: Where is your money going?” Canadian Press, February 7, 2010). While acknowledging that many large aid organizations had implemented tighter accountability measures after the tsunami, others were still not operating as transparently as they could. In her view, the best way that Canadians could ensure that their charitable donations are actually ending up helping those in need of them is to contribute to groups that were already operating in Haiti even before the earthquake. “You have to ask what is the aid group’s capacity to work in the emergency,” she stated. “Have they got long roots in the country where they actually know how to be effective?”

A CBC investigation focusing on the operations of the Canadian Red Cross (CRC) in the tsunami-devastated Aceh region in Indonesia has raised some disturbing questions regarding how reconstruction projects are administered in remote areas stricken by major natural disasters. According to Virgil Grandfield, a former CRC employee, hundreds of construction workers imported from other parts of the country to build new houses for tsunami survivors found themselves at the mercy of unscrupulous *mandurs*, or subcontractors, who refused to pay them for long periods of time. Instead, the subcontractors pocketed money targeted for reconstruction efforts for their own uses.

Grandfield claims that even though CRC officials in Canada were aware that this was happening, they did nothing to halt these abuses. Since leaving the CRC in disgust, Grandfield has dedicated his time and energy to tracking down former construction workers scattered across Indonesia in order to prove his allegations. And while the CRC is now promising that it will investigate Grandfield's charges and will compensate the workers for their withheld wages, he still feels that more could be done. He urges that the CRC should "recognize that it happened, and apologize for it . . . The CRC was rolling in money when this was happening" ("Stolen Aid," CBC documentary, 2010).

## Analysis

1. Review the notes you made during the pre-reading activity. How accurate was your information? Did you learn anything in this section that surprised you?
2. What fundraising efforts for Haiti earthquake relief taking place in your own school or local community were you aware of? Did you or your friends/family/classmates participate in any of them? Why or why not?
3. Do you think that aid organizations in Haiti should shift their focus from short-term emergency assistance to longer-term reconstruction efforts in the aftermath of the earthquake? Why or why not?
4. Are you concerned that the money you may donate to a charitable organization may not reach those in need of it? Why or why not?
5. Has the information presented in the CBC documentary *Stolen Aid* affected your view of the CRC as a reputable aid organization? Why or why not?

# HOW CANADIANS ARE HELPING HAITI

## Personal Stories

### Quote

"I'm learning just how complex our work here is, and how dedicated the Red Cross is to ensuring that each and every donor dollar is used to help our beneficiaries in the best ways possible." — Cheryl Kelly, CRC aid worker ("Stories from the Field," [www.redcross.ca/haitia2010/red-cross-response/](http://www.redcross.ca/haitia2010/red-cross-response/))

### Focus for Reading

The following material tells the personal stories of a few Canadians who are helping in Haiti. As you read the stories, think about what they are doing, why they are there, and how their experiences have affected them.

Chiran Livera is working as part of the Canadian Red Cross (CRC) relief effort in Haiti. Livera, who first joined the CRC as a youth volunteer in 2004, is part of the emergency response team based in Jacmel. He is trained in humanitarian relief management and has a background in international law, armed conflict, and global citizenship. His main priority for his three-month stint in Haiti is to assist with shelter assessment projects and the distribution of basic relief items.

On arriving in Jacmel, Livera was struck by the sheer scope of the disaster, but also impressed by the resiliency, dedication, and professionalism of local volunteers from the Haitian branch of the Red Cross. He recognized that quake survivors in this region needed emergency shelter in the form of tents, but also more long-term temporary accommodation, which he was responsible for designing and presenting to local officials and future inhabitants. After supervising the distribution of emergency items like blankets, kitchen sets, tarpaulins, and hygiene kits to about 25 000 people, Livera's efforts shifted to the transitional shelter program, whose goal was to design, build, and house homeless people in structures that would withstand heavy rains and hurricanes and last for as long as four or five years.

During his stint in Haiti, Livera also had the opportunity to travel outside Jacmel to remote rural areas that had received little, if any, outside assistance weeks after the earthquake struck. He was impressed with the sheer physical beauty of these mountainous regions, but also found that

residents faced serious problems—even before the quake—such as no electricity and limited access to transportation to ship the crops they grew to market.

He tells of a passionate grandfather who refused to take his family to a displaced persons camp in Port-au-Prince even though his house had been destroyed, because the only life he knew was in the mountains. He used the tarpaulins the CRC provided to set up a temporary shelter for his large family and also benefited from the hygiene kits and mosquito nets it distributed to local residents.

Back in Jacmel, Livera came to know a number of Haitian Red Cross volunteers well as he worked alongside them. One of them was Michelle Guardina, a 22-year-old student and Jacmel native who showed an innate talent for leadership and motivating others. From his contact with local people, he believes that something positive may arise in Haiti out of this calamity. In his words, "this idea of neighbours helping strangers and communities coming together to identify solutions to challenges is apparent in what I have seen in Haiti. Often out of a tragedy, a sense of community spirit and resilience can emerge, and Haiti is no exception" ("Stories from the Field," [www.redcross.ca/haitia2010/red-cross-response/](http://www.redcross.ca/haitia2010/red-cross-response/)).

CRC worker Cheryl Kelly was both proud and nervous as she boarded the airplane for Port-au-Prince about two months after the earthquake struck. She wondered if she would be able to cope with the demands

### **Quote**

"What you see here will remain in your hard drive for the rest of your life. If you don't have a filing system to lock it away, you are in trouble." — Ben Zakous ("Horrors of Haiti take their toll," *Toronto Star*, February 7, 2010)

and deal with the horror and devastation she was certain to encounter on the ground in Haiti. But the presence of so many Red Cross workers from around the world, along with the strength and commitment of local Haitian volunteers, soon buoyed her spirits. She was especially struck by a young woman she interviewed for an administrative position with the CRC team. This person was about to graduate from college when the building where student records were filed was totally levelled in the quake. She now had no proof that she had indeed graduated, but this did not deter her from offering her services to the Red Cross team.

Although her days start at 5:30 a.m. and often do not finish until long after nightfall, Cheryl Kelly is enjoying every minute of her assignment in Haiti.

Magalie Bien-Aimé is a 44-year-old nurse of Haitian background from Montreal who had both personal and professional reasons for volunteering her services for Haiti following the earthquake. Moved by the scenes of suffering and devastation she witnessed on television, she wanted to help. But she was also anxious to find her older brother—whom she had not seen in 10 years—who had disappeared in the rubble of his Port-au-Prince home, leaving behind a 13-year-old son.

*Toronto Star* reporter Brett Popplewell met her on the plane trip to Haiti less than two weeks after the quake. At that time she expressed the doubts she had about being able to withstand the pressures she was about to encounter. She agreed to meet Popplewell again.

While covering the earthquake for his newspaper, Popplewell met with a number of international volunteers who told of the severe stress they were under while working in Haiti. Some found the horrors they encountered so overwhelming that they had to leave the country mere days after their arrival. For those who stayed, the images of amputated limbs, mangled bodies, and traumatized children will remain in their memories for life.

About two weeks after his arrival, Popplewell was visiting the University of Miami's field hospital near the airport, where he learned there was a severe shortage of nurses. Upon informing the hospital director that he was a Canadian journalist, Popplewell was led to some small tents where Canadian nurses were staying. There he met Magalie Bien-Aimé again, chain-smoking and exhausted from stress and an inability to sleep.

She told him that while she had been able to find her nephew, who was safe with another aunt, and had spent a short visit with him, she had received no news about her brother, who she presumed was dead. Emotionally drained by her experience in Haiti, she was eager to return to Canada. As she told Popplewell, "there are so many orphans and amputees here. You try to help someone and they scream. You leave them alone and they scream. Others have no feeling. They don't respond. They just sit there. I haven't seen any coffins yet but, at night, I dream about them. I don't want to stay any longer. I need to decompress. I need out" ("Horrors of Haiti take their toll," *Toronto Star*, February 7, 2010).

### **Follow-up**

1. Identify the similarities and differences between the experiences of Chiran Livera, Cheryl Kelly, and Magalie Bien-Aimé. How would you account for these differences?
2. Do you think it requires a special kind of person to work in a disaster zone like post-earthquake Haiti? What qualities do you think such a person should possess before he or she embarks on such an assignment? Do you think you could or would want to be such a person? Why or why not?

# HOW CANADIANS ARE HELPING HAITI

## **Activity: Non-Governmental Organizations**

### **Your Task**

As part of a small group, you will be conducting research about non-governmental organizations operating in Haiti and giving a short presentation to the class about the information you locate.

### **Getting Started**

The CBC has posted online a lengthy list of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that are delivering aid to Haiti following the earthquake. This list was compiled by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT); background information on these NGOs can be found on its Web site.

- CBC list: "Disaster in Haiti: How you can help"— [www.cbc.ca/canada/story/2010/02/13/f-haiti-help.html](http://www.cbc.ca/canada/story/2010/02/13/f-haiti-help.html)
- DFAIT Web site: "Earthquake in Haiti"— [www.cra-arc.gc.ca/whtsnw/tms/rthqk-haiti-eng.html](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/whtsnw/tms/rthqk-haiti-eng.html)

### **The Research**

Form small groups and select two of the NGOs listed on the CBC web site. Some of them—such as CARE Canada, Oxfam, UNICEF, the Canadian Red Cross, or World Vision—may already be familiar to you, while others may be less well known. Each group should try to choose one large or well-known NGO and one smaller or less familiar one as the basis for its research.

While doing your research, make notes on the following:

- background information on your NGOs
- the projects your NGOs are responsible for in Haiti
- challenges facing the NGOs
- examples of success achieved by the NGOs

### **Final Assessment**

With your group members, discuss the advantages and disadvantages of large NGOs as opposed to small ones. Are there certain types of work that only a large NGO can do? Is a smaller NGO more efficient than a large one (that is, can they get things done faster)? Do they use donated funds differently?

Your responses to these questions will form your final assessment, which you should share as the conclusion to your presentation.

Following the presentations, discuss with the entire class which NGOs it thinks might be best positioned to deliver effective aid to Haiti, and why.